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Spoiling the  
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## Peace is the only choice – Clinton



President Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea board Air Force One on their way to Israel yesterday.

### PM: Palestinians systematically violating their commitments

By DANNA HARMAN

President Bill Clinton arrived here late last night, accompanied by his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, touching down at Ben-Gurion Airport shortly before 11:30.

"We are determined that Israel's just requirements for security be met," Clinton said.

"At the same time, for two people fated to share this land, peace is not simply one option among many, but the only choice that can avert many years of bloodshed ... That is why I am here."

He said he recognizes and understands Israel's yearning for peace, and acknowledged that these feelings are "tempered with pain and understandable feelings of ambivalence when questions arise as to whether commitments are being fulfilled."

Clinton stated he had come "to reaffirm America's unbreakable ties, unshakable commitment to Israel's security" as well as "to stand by as you take risks for peace... We share the conviction that, without security, the peace process will always be clouded."

Netanyahu, speaking before Clinton, said he hopes the visit "can contribute materially to the change that is required to put the

peace process back on track."

"In the last weeks the Palestinians have been systematically violating their commitments," Netanyahu said. "Agreements brazenly flaunted with violence lead not to peace, but to the intensification of conflict. It must honestly be said that our partners have not kept" to the agreement, the prime minister continued, adding that the Palestinians have "reverted to past actions."

"What we must insure is a peace

**Clinton visit, Pages 2,3**

of full compliance ... we must therefore seek compliance without letup. This means our partners must honor their promises with deeds," he said.

President Ezer Weizman, who welcomed Clinton first, said the latter would see that Israelis are eager for peace.

"I believe that we will succeed in reaching a peaceful settlement, because in the words of one of our popular songs, we cannot stop this melody in the middle," Weizman said.

Clinton is to be in the region for three days, meeting with

Palestinian and Israeli leaders in an attempt to resolve differences between the sides and put the Wye accord implementation process back on track.

The most immediate problems Clinton will have to address are the dispute over the prisoner releases, which has been fueling West Bank riots, and the dispute over the Palestinian National Council vote on the Palestinian Covenant, scheduled for tomorrow in Gaza.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has declared the PNC will not vote to nullify the Palestinian Covenant sections calling for Israel's destruction, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said in response that, if so, the next redeployment – scheduled to take place on Friday – will not be carried out.

If the purpose of Clinton's visit was originally envisioned to be overseeing the Wye accord's implementation, it is now generally understood to be aimed at restarting the process. If it was once thought that Clinton's presence at the PNC meeting in Gaza would be the capping moment of the peace process's affirmation, it is now the focus of dispute.

## PA moves to calm West Bank

By BEN LYNFIELD

In a bid to calm the highly volatile West Bank during President Bill Clinton's visit to Israel and Gaza, the Palestinian Authority has asked Fatah to put a lid on protests for prisoner releases. Hatem Abdel-Kader, a Palestinian legislator, said last night.

The move, an apparent bid to give US-brokered diplomatic efforts on the sensitive issue a chance, coincided with the burial yesterday of two Palestinians slain Friday during demonstrations in the Kalkilya area.

Thousands of people marched through the northern West Bank town yesterday for the funeral of Kamal Mansour Adwan, who was 18. They chanted "God loves the martyrs" as they moved through the streets carrying his body, which was wrapped in a Palestinian flag.

The other fatality in the clashes was Mohammed Suleiman, 18, of Kheibeh village.

The deaths brought the

Palestinian fatality toll to four over the last week.

Abdel-Kader, who is a Fatah leader in Jerusalem, said: "The PA called us and told us you must control the street and (have) quiet when President Clinton comes, but we can't stop everything because the people in the street are very angry and ask what about the prisoners."

"The pressure in the street must be continued but without big violence, especially when Clinton comes to Gaza," he added.

The PA's bid to curb the protests appears to reflect a desire to minimize delays by Israel of further redeployments in the West Bank.

Fatah, which was founded and is headed by Arafat, is the most powerful movement in Palestinian politics, and virtually all the key PA leaders in the cabinet and the security forces have risen up the ranks of the movement.

Another PA step to lower the West Bank burner was the cancellation of a general strike planned for tomorrow to show solidarity

with hunger-striking prisoners and to press Clinton to become personally involved in the issue.

The cancellation was announced by the Palestinian Prisoners Association in the Al-Ayam newspaper yesterday.

Last night, the head of the association, Issa Karakeh, a Fatah activist, outlined a new, more moderate program of protest activities.

Speaking on the Voice of Palestine radio, he called for church bells to be rung at noon today throughout the PA areas, and the reciting of koranic verses in memory of those who died in protests.

On Tuesday, children of prisoners are to march to Bethlehem's Manger Square and attempt to give Clinton a letter asking that he pressure Israel for prisoner releases, Karakeh said.

Abdel-Kader predicted that street demonstrations will resume after Clinton's visit if no progress is made on gaining releases.

See PA, Page 2

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## House approves final article of impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) – Plagued by partisanship to the end, the House Judiciary Committee yesterday approved a fourth and final Republican-drafted article of impeachment against President Bill Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Democrats demanded a lesser punishment of censure in advance

The impeachment process, Page 6

of next week's historic showdown in the full House over charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and misuse of power.

By a vote of 21-16, the committee accused the president of abuse of power, saying he had "given perjurious, false and mis-



Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Henry Hyde

leading" answers to some of the 81 questions the panel recently asked about his relationship with the former White House intern.

The vote was along straight party lines, in keeping with Friday's approval of three other articles alleging perjury and obstruction of justice.

Clinton, who told the nation

Friday he would accept rebuke or censure from Congress, was en route to Israel at the time of the vote.

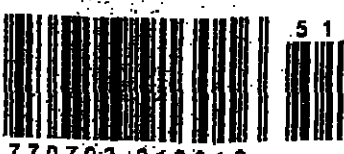
An aide, Gregory Craig, stepped before cameras outside the White House with a stinging statement of rebuttal: Impeachment, he said, will "divide the country, gridlock the government and defy the will of the people."

Inside the committee room, the debate grew ever sharper as the panel neared the end of its historic inquiry into the behavior of the nation's 42nd president.

Democratic Rep. John Conyers of Michigan told committee members: "This does, sometimes to some people, begin to take on the appearance of a coup."

With no doubt about the outcome of the committee's deliberations, all sides were focusing on a vote expected Thursday in the House – the first presidential impeachment proceedings to get that far since Andrew Johnson sat in the White House in 1868.

See IMPEACH, Page 2



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## NEWS

in brief

### Sharansky unwelcome at Karni opening

Palestinian Authority Trade Minister Maher Misri has told Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky that he is not welcome at the opening ceremony of the Karni industrial park tomorrow. Sharansky's office said yesterday.

Sharansky, whose ministry has invested some NIS 60 million at Karni, told visiting US Commerce Secretary William Daley that this sort of behavior was "typical."

"The Palestinians say we don't help them, and then when we do, they try to hide it," said Sharansky, who received Daley at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday.

Sharansky said that due to the Palestinian's request it was unlikely that the planned meeting between himself, Daley, Misri and Jordanian Industry Minister Mohammed Horani - scheduled for tomorrow - would take place. *Danna Harman*

### EU calls for Israeli, Palestinian restraint

In a draft statement at the end of a two-day, year-end summit, 15 European Union leaders called on both Palestinians and Israelis to show restraint.

"While noting the progress made to date by both sides in implementing the (Wye River) Memorandum, the European Council deplores the recent violence, mutual recrimination and the setting of new conditions which threaten to unravel the fragile peace progress since Wye," the leaders said. *AP*

### Clinton to raise MIA issue with Arafat

US President Bill Clinton promised that he would raise the issue of Israel's MIAs in his meeting tomorrow with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the parents of MIA Zacharia Baumei said yesterday.

"My administration and I remain determined to pursue every possible lead to ascertain their fate," Clinton wrote in a letter to Congressman Robert Wexler. *Danna Harman*

### Hamas threatens attacks

Islamic militants yesterday threatened attacks on Israel by the end of the month if their spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is not released from house arrest by the Palestinian Authority.

Yassin has been under the restrictions since a suicide bomber tried to blow up a school bus near Kfar Darom, killing an IDF soldier.

"We are giving the Palestinian Authority until December 25 to lift the house arrest order placed on Sheikh Yassin," the pamphlet said. "If this is not done then the Qassam brigades will have no choice but to carry out new bombing attacks against the Zionist entity and its forces, attacks that would make the Zionist entity pay a heavy price," it said. The Qassam brigades are the military wing of Hamas. *AP*

## PEACE

Continued from Page 1

All eyes are on the president, who is to spend today in Jerusalem and tomorrow in Gaza, speaking with both the people and the leaders, and trying to help navigate the process around various obstacles.

A major focus of contention is the PNC vote tomorrow. The Palestinian Central Council affirmed nullification of the Palestinian Covenant sections calling for Israel's destruction last week - and sees the process as completed.

PNC Speaker Salim Z'atoun said Thursday that the PNC will gather in Gaza tomorrow, "only to listen to President Clinton's speech and President Arafat... there will be no vote."

In the Wye Memorandum, there is, in fact, no mention of a vote, but only a reference to an "affirmation."

The government, however, continues to declare that the process will not be seen as complete unless there is such a vote.

In fact, even holding a vote would not legally nullify the Covenant. Article 33 of the Covenant clearly states that "the Covenant cannot be amended except by a two-thirds majority of the members of the National Council of the PLO in a special session called for this purpose."

Inasmuch as the invitations to Gaza did not specify that it was to be a special voting session, and since Netanyahu has already implicitly agreed to accept a simple majority, and not a two-thirds vote - the process is already legally flawed.

This, however, can be finessed as long as the government is able to point to a strong symbolic act of nullification - in other words, a vote. This is what Netanyahu is insisting upon.

"We have no fear of American pressure or an attempt to force a solution on us," Netanyahu said last week, adding that he alone will assess whether the outcome of the PNC meeting is satisfactory.

Netanyahu has conditioned his participation in the planned three-way summit tomorrow on the vote. Netanyahu has also said that, even if there is a vote, this does not mean Israel will redeploy Friday, as there are other conditions the government has set. These conditions include Arafat explicitly declaring that he will not declare independence on May 4, and that he stop the violence in the West Bank.

The violence - and the question of the prisoner releases, which has provoked the violence - is another matter Clinton will be asked to contend with this week. The Palestinians continue to demand the release of security or political prisoners. The government insists it will never release terrorists with blood on their hands.

The American position is that, since only the number of prisoners to be released - 750 - was agreed

upon, and not the category, Netanyahu is doing all he had committed to do. But, add the Americans, differences obviously remain, and these are to be worked out between the sides through negotiations.

US Mideast envoy Dennis Ross, who was in the region for most of last week, met Thursday with PA West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub in an attempt to help work out a compromise.

Several compromise ideas are being floated, including allowing the release of accomplices to murderers, but not the murderers themselves, or allowing the release of prisoners who killed other Palestinians, such as Palestinian collaborators, but not Jews.

Other scenarios being discussed include releasing some of the older security prisoners, who have been in jail for long periods, or tying the prisoner release with the release by the US of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

"This is the most crucial matter to us today, and it needs to be resolved before the other matters can be tackled," said Rajoub. "I was in jail for 17 years and I always had the hope that I would be released. This is the hope we have promised our people."

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky has said on several occasions that no compromise on the prisoners would be acceptable. The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement Friday denying reports that lists of different categories of prisoners were being drawn up.

Rajoub said Netanyahu was "holding the prisoners hostage," and causing great harm to the peace process. "He [Netanyahu] is looking toward his right wing, and ignoring our cries... and in this he is making a grave mistake."

While the government claims that a large majority of the 2,400 Palestinian convicts in Israeli prisons are either murderers or Hamas members, Rajoub claims that only 10 percent are murderers.

"We are willing to leave the matter of these people for the final-status talks, but the rest we want to discuss right now," said Rajoub. "Netanyahu is simply lying about the numbers."

The US president's entourage includes Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of Agriculture Daniel Glickman, Secretary of Commerce William Daley, Ross, Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk, a delegation of congressmen, and other officials. Albright is expected to meet separately today with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon. The meeting with Mordechai is expected to focus not only on the negotiations with the Palestinians, but a possible renewal of talks with Syria, defense officials said yesterday.

Also expected to be addressed are the situations in Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran, the officials said. *Hillel Kuttler, Ariel O'Sullivan, and Batsheva Tsor contributed to this report.*

By HILLEL KUTTLER

President Bill Clinton plunges into the serious business early this morning. First he is to have breakfast at his hotel with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sara Netanyahu. Later he has a meeting with Netanyahu and the cabinet.

Afterwards, he will visit the grave of slain premier Yitzhak Rabin, then deliver a speech at the Jerusalem International Convention Center to a country-wide gathering of high school students and soldiers. This evening he goes to Beit Hanassi to meet with President Ezer Weizmann and light a candle celebrating the first night of Hanukkah, before attending a dinner Netanyahu is hosting for over 300 guests.

Secretary of Commerce William Daley, who is traveling with the President, is scheduled to address the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce at a Tel Aviv luncheon today. He and the congressional delegation are to meet this morning with Weizmann.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Friday that the president is coming primarily to give a push to the Wye accords, and to share with both sides "their hopes, listen to their fears and reaffirm America's steadfast support for the peace process."

"The president is making this trip because he is dedicated to helping both sides overcome the challenges that still exist to a productive negotiating process and a durable peace."

"We knew when we left Wye that we would be facing a bumpy road, and some of those bumps have already been jarring. But there can be no question that Wye has moved us further down the road towards peace and away from the long and dangerous impasse that preceded it."

Among the serious bumps to which Albright referred are the PNC proceedings and the release of Palestinian prisoners. She said that all three sides have agreed on a "set of procedures" for what the Palestinian National Council must do when it convenes tomorrow in Gaza City with Clinton in attendance.

But she refused to state whether those procedures meant a vote or hand-clapping.

The Americans expect that Israel



Palestinians watch as a large banner depicting President Bill Clinton and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is hung in Gaza yesterday. Clinton is to visit Gaza tomorrow. *(AP)*

"will find these procedures satisfactory," National Security Adviser Sandy Berger told reporters.

Clinton will utilize his speech at the Israel Convention Center to emphasize America's "unshakable ties" to Israel and its "enduring commitment to Israel's security."

Berger said, adding that Israel is "one of our closest allies and shall remain so."

"At the same time, Israel's security is absolutely a prerequisite to peace, and I expect the president to talk in some detail in that speech about the Wye River agreement

and why it promotes both the security of Israel and the peace of Israel," Berger added.

Despite claims to the contrary, including by visiting Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon earlier in the week, Albright asserted that the Palestinian Authority "has re-en-

gaged its fight against terror" and "has begun" confiscating illegal weapons.

Albright acknowledged the tense political environment in recent weeks, saying "there's no denying that the second phase of implementation has proven more difficult than the first," and that "provocative rhetoric, violence and disputes over key issues such as prisoner exchanges have created real difficulties."

Attempting to soothe Israeli concerns over the PNC convention, Albright said that the gathering "must meet their commitment" to reaffirm the nullification of the PLO charter "so that it is clear once and for all that provisions calling for the destruction of Israel are null and void."

Such a step, taken together with Thursday's PLO Central Committee vote on the covenant, meant that "Israel must move ahead with the second stage of its further redeployment," she said.

Both Israel and the PA must demonstrate "more of what [they] showed at Wye: leadership, courage and a willingness to cooperate," she said.

Tomorrow morning Clinton will helicopter to the newly opened Gaza International Airport, to be greeted there by PA chairman Yasser Arafat before the two adjourn for a working luncheon in Gaza City. The PNC meeting will follow.

Despite the controversy over whether the PNC is expected to vote on the PLO charter's amendment, Berger stated that Clinton can be expected "to praise that step and the strides the Palestinian people have taken through the peace process, as well as the obligations they have undertaken as part of the peace process."

On another matter of Israeli concern - Clinton's first-ever presidential visit to Palestinian-controlled territories - Albright said that it does "not in any way" indicate a change in American policy on Palestinian statehood.

Albright said that "there is more that can be done" to improve Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation and that the prisoner release dispute should be handled through negotiations. But she stated that "Israel has fulfilled its obligations on prisoner releases under the Wye agreement."

## Parents of terror victims meet with congressmen

By ELI WOHLGELER

A group of parents whose children were murdered by Palestinian terrorists met with two US congressmen last night, urging them to prod the Palestinian Authority to transfer those killers of Americans to the United States for prosecution.

The meeting, organized by the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), follows the signing of a letter to US President Bill Clinton on Friday by two dozen members of Congress, led by Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ), and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), beseeching Clinton to push Yasser Arafat on handing over the 15 Arabs involved in the killing of 11 Americans.

"The Palestinians are playing an obvious

game," said Sherman. "They say, 'We agree with you, we just can't find them.'"

Sherman and Rep. Jon Fox (R-PA) met with Joyce and Stanley Boim, the parents of David Boim, who was killed in a drive-by shooting near Beit El, on May 13, 1996; Julie Botwin, mother of Yael Botwin, who was killed in the September 4, 1997, bombing on Ben-Yehuda Street in Jerusalem; Esther Wachsmann, mother of Nachshon Wachsmann, who was kidnapped on October 9, 1994, and murdered by Hamas; and Yehudit Dassberg, mother-in-law of Yaron Ungar, who was killed near Beit Shemesh, on June 9, 1996.

"This issue is not part of the Wye agreement," said Fox, "but it's more important to us. Every Jewish organization must make it a priority: the President's

Conference, B'nai B'rith - everyone!" Fox and Sherman co-sponsored a House resolution that passed by a 406-0 vote, that urged Clinton to demand that Arafat hand over Arab killers of Americans for prosecution in the US, just as the administration has been demanding that Khadafi hand over the Libyan terrorists who bombed Pan Am flight 103.

The Israeli government has identified 15 Arab residents living in territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority as having been involved in the murders of Americans since 1993. Thirteen of the 15 are free men.

According to the ZOA, four of them - Bassam Issa, Kamal Khalifa, Yasser Khasin and Mahmud Sanwar - are currently serving in Arafat's security forces. ZOA ran a full-page ad in the

Washington Times on Friday headlined: "Dear Members of Congress: If you go to Gaza this weekend, here's who you'll meet," flanked by a photograph of a Palestinian Arab mob burning an American flag. The advertisement continued, "And here's who you won't meet," followed by the photographs of the Americans who have been killed by Arab terrorists since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993.

A poll sponsored by the scholarly journal Middle East Quarterly, carried out in June 1997 by the polling firm of John McLaughlin and Associates, asked if it was "important" that the US demand the extradition of Palestinian Arabs suspected of killing Americans. The results: 67.2% said Yes; 15.5% said No.

## PA

Continued from Page 1

"The violence must be continued if we do not reach any agreement on the prisoners, but we hope we can stop this violence because we are afraid if the violence continues it will be out of control," he said. "It's a problem for us, not just the Israelis."

The Palestinian Cabinet yesterday issued a statement condemning the use of live fire in the Kalkiya clashes.

"We condemn the Israeli policy, allowing the use of live fire against Palestinians peacefully demonstrating against settlements and for prisoner releases," it said.

The IDF spokesman said the clashes ensued after hundreds of Palestinians coming from a rally stormed IDF positions.

In addition to the two fatalities, 50 Palestinians were lightly wounded, according to Channel 1.

The IDF spokesman said the army was investigating reports that the two youths who died were hit by live fire. The spokesman said that according to initial findings, troops had used rubber-coated bullets, but the probe was continuing.

The IDF ordered Kalkiya closed to Israelis after the clashes.

In Bethlehem yesterday, protesters hurled rocks and firebombs at IDF troops, who responded by firing rubber-coated bullets and tear gas, eyewitnesses said.

Palestinian sources said 10 Palestinians were wounded in the Bethlehem area yesterday during clashes and five Palestinians were lightly wounded in clashes in Ramallah.

In El-Khader, south of Bethlehem, a border policeman

suffered moderate wounds from a stone thrown at him during clashes, the IDF spokesman reported.

Police Spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said last night that police had detained three Palestinians after catching them in the act of throwing stones at Israeli vehicles on the French Hill-Ramat road. Several vehicles were lightly damaged, he said.

Stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles on the Halhoul and Husan bypass roads, lightly damaging several vehicles. On the Gush Etzion tunnel road, an Israeli woman was wounded by stones thrown at her car, and taken to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Karem.

A firebomb was thrown at a building in Abu Tor. No damage or injuries were reported. *Margot Dudkevitch and Reuters contributed to this report*

## IMPEACH

Continued from Page 1

If the full House votes to impeach, the case would be forwarded for trial in the Senate, which can vote on whether to remove Clinton from office. No US president has yet been ousted by Congress.

Clinton's defenders were cheered by comments from New York Republican Gov. George Pataki, who told the New York Times he favors censure.

That alternative "is an attractive and appropriate step," he said in comments likely to give political leeway to a half-dozen so Republican lawmakers from his state who are undecided on whether to impeach the president.

Moments after the vote on the fourth article of impeachment, Democrats sought passage of their

alternative of censure, saying the president had "dishonored the office" he holds and noting that he remains subject to criminal prosecution after he leaves office.

Republican Rep. Henry Hyde, the committee chairman, instantly ridiculed it, asking "where is the word 'lie' in here?" The measure was doomed to defeat.

Democrats knew that in advance, but forced a debate as part of their effort to gain a vote on the House floor in the week ahead.

House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt sought to turn up the political stakes, urging incoming Speaker Bob Livingston in a letter to permit a censure vote when the issue reaches the floor.

"Your decision... will decide whether or not history will mark our actions as a purely political exercise or a high-minded debate on the impeachment of a presi-

dent," Gephardt wrote.

At home in Louisiana, Livingston told reporters, "Frankly we haven't decided yet."

Inside the committee room, Republican Rep. George Gekas persuaded fellow Republicans to narrow the scope of the article of impeachment alleging abuse of power.

On his initiative, the panel stripped out language citing Clinton's decision to assert executive privilege in trying to limit testimony sought by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

"He was simply uttering a privilege that is accorded him," Gekas said.

As amended, the article's only abuse-of-power accusation faults Clinton for failing to fully and truthfully answer some of the 81 written questions posed by the committee about the Lewinsky affair.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON

Dear Mr. President:

Welcome to Jerusalem, "the city of the great King!"

You've testified that your Bible-believing pastor touring Israel with you long ago prophesied you would one day be President and warned that God would not forgive you if you turned your back on Israel. Yet on April 27 did you not say, "As a Christian, I do not know how God... if he were to come to Earth, would divide the [Holy Land] over which there is such dispute now. I suspect that neither does anyone in this audience. But I know that if we all pray for the wisdom to do God's will, chances are we will find a way to close the gap between what is and what might be. I think that is what we owe the founders of Israel: to finish Ben-Gurion's dream."

Why would you think, sir, that contradicting God's Word could be doing His will? Did no one in your audience know Joel 2:27, with God proclaiming dire judgment on who'd "spurred my land?" What price, as lead you to say?

This is to plead for America's and your own soul's sake, that you recall your pastor's warning and realize that to ignore the clear 1996 mandate of this Jewish nation gave its PM Netanyahu, to reject suicidal evils of their former government by adopting the evil counsels of your State Department's so-called "peace process" against Israel and the Bible, you are invoking His wrath your pastor warned you against. 2700 years ago, Isaiah (28:14-18) specifically denounced the Oslo Accord as an "agreement with hell."

Neville Chamberlain's "Peace in our time" sonnet of paper ended in his death-bed lament, "It would have been all right if only Hitler hadn't lied to me," for a war he opened Hitler's door to that would cost some 50,000,000 lives. Will you so brazenly trusting Yasser Arafat's lies? Or will you rather heed the Word, the Bible, as Eve did, as Adam did, as Noah did, as Moses did, as Jesus did, as Paul did, as Peter did, as John did, as the Lord did, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

Those called Christians are divided into two basic categories, those who believe the Bible on which their faith is based is the Word of God and those who do not. As Eve did, as Adam did, as Noah did, as Moses did, as Jesus did, as Paul did, as Peter did, as John did, as the Lord did, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

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## US gov't, Congress tangle over Mideast aid

By WALTER PINCUS

WASHINGTON — On the eve of President Clinton's trip to the Middle East, his top aides engaged in a last-minute battle with Congress over how to pay for \$1.9 billion in US commitments of aid to Israel and the Palestinians made during negotiations of a peace agreement this fall at Wye River, Md.

Last week, the White House threatened to secure the funds by taking almost \$1 billion of emergency supplemental spending appropriated last October for intelligence and ballistic missile defense, two programs dear to House and Senate Republicans. That move brought immediate, strong opposition from Capitol Hill, the Pentagon and intelligence agencies, according to administration and congressional sources.

The solution to the dispute appeared to have emerged by late Friday, but not before the matter had set off what one congressional aide termed a "battle royal," pitting the White House against Speaker Newt Gingrich, Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet, and the chairmen and two ranking minority members of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees.

"These funds provide critical resources for emergency national security-related requirements," argued a Tuesday letter to the director of the office of management and budget, Jacob J. Lew, from House Intelligence Committee Chairman Porter J. Goss, and his Senate counterpart, Sen. Richard C. Shelby, that was also signed by Sen. J. Robert Kerrey, and Rep. Norman D. Dicks, the ranking minority members on the committees.

Tenet joined the debate Thursday at the White House where he voiced his objections directly to White House Chief of Staff John Podesta and OMB Director Lew, sources said.

At issue are US commitments arising out of the Wye agreement, which calls for \$1.2 billion for Israel, \$400 million for the West Bank and Gaza, and \$300 million for Jordan.

It was unclear at the time of the Wye agreement in October where the administration would find the money.

(Washington Post)

## PM office staff told to stay home

### NOTEBOOK

• **HUNDREDS** of workers in the Prime Minister's Office who are unconnected with the Clinton visit have been told to stay at home until 12.30 today for security reasons. An olive tree has been planted in the parking lot as a peace symbol.

• **CHANNEL One TV** will be the house channel for the world's TV networks and Clinton's activities will be carried live.

• **SECURITY** at the Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street was so tight last night that it took some hotel workers over half an hour to get in. Security personnel also erected a large tent across the entrance so that onlookers would not be able to see Clinton entering and leaving the building.

• **THIS** evening, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife are to host President Clinton and his wife for cocktails before they enter the ballroom for a dinner for 400. The five-course dinner will include ballantine of salmon, a salad of wild mushrooms, cherry tomatoes and balsamic vinegar, veal and beef fillet with a quince tart and a carpaccio of poached pineapple for dessert.



PFLP leader George Habash is helped yesterday by Ahmed Jibril (right) of the PFLP-General Command and Imad Alami of Hamas, at the Palestinian counter-conference in Damascus. (AP)

## Hard-liners reaffirm PLO Covenant

By ZEINA KARAM

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Rejectionist Arab groups yesterday reaffirmed their allegiance to the Palestinian Covenant that calls for Israel's destruction.

"This charter was written in blood, born in blood and will be protected with blood," Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said.

He was one of the 300 participants at a conference called to voice opposition to a historic meeting tomorrow of the Palestinian National Council to expunge anti-Israeli sections from the Palestinian Covenant.

The sanitizing of the charter is in line with the Wye River accord. The PNC meeting in Gaza City is to be attended by President Bill Clinton.

Ramada Abdullah Shallah of Islamic Jihad told reporters that Clinton is coming only to confirm "the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance... but we tell him that, God willing, this shall never happen."

"The people of Palestine are not a herd of sheep that revolve around Arafat's policies," Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said.

Nasrallah called for joining forces in an uprising against Israel and urged the implementation of the clause in the Palestinian Covenant that calls for the destruction of Israel.

"The Palestinian National Charter will live on as long as there is a knife in a Palestinian woman's hand with which she stabs an Israeli soldier or settler... as long as there are suicide bombers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv... and as long as there is a child who throws a stone in the face of an Israeli soldier," he said.

Among the participants at the conference were leaders who figure

high on Israel's list of persons wanted for violence.

They include Ahmed Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine-General Command, George Habash of the PFLP, Hawatmeh of the DFLP and Shallah of Islamic Jihad.

## Huge security in operation for visit

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and ELLI WOHLGELERWINTER

In one of the largest personal security operations ever witnessed here, the General Security Service and the police have deployed massive forces to prevent any attack on President Bill Clinton and control demonstrations during his visit.

The security operation for the president's visit will include thousands of policemen, border policemen, GSS personnel and US security units stationed all across Jerusalem.

Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk said Thursday that while there is no evidence of any planned attempt on Clinton's life, officials are working under the assumption "that there will be attempts by certain elements to

carry out an attack or any other incident in order to disrupt the visit," including demonstrations and vigils "from all sorts of directions."

In addition to the US Secret Service, the Border Police has reportedly deployed its elite anti-terror Yamam unit near the Jerusalem Hilton, where Clinton will be staying. Snipers are also on hand.

Wilk said over the weekend that security arrangements would not be changed even though Friday's prayers on the Temple Mount passed with relative quiet.

"We still have the working assumption that demonstrations are expected. We'd be happy to be proven wrong. In my estimation, some of the quiet comes as a result of our deployment, which

is very massive," he said.

US officials were tight-lipped on the security arrangements, but reports said the Americans are keen on moving Clinton from place to place by helicopter. Alternate land routes have also been prepared should the weather or other problems prevent chopper flights.

Ma'ariv reported that the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip have carried out sweeping, door-to-door arrests in the Shati and Jabaliya refugee camps.

Clinton's visit has led to GSS and Palestinian security agents cooperating in their preparations to prevent any harm to Clinton. This is reportedly being done with the help of the CIA, which has prepared a detailed plan for the visit.

## Leave your car at home today

By ELLI WOHLGELERWINTER

Traffic is guaranteed to be a nightmare in Jerusalem today, with many streets closed for parking and traffic halted when President Bill Clinton and his motorcade pass by.

Routes the presidential motorcade will pass through will be closed up to an hour before Clinton's arrival,

which will be coordinated by police helicopter and a mobile command unit under Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki.

Roads surrounding the Hilton Hotel, where Clinton will be staying, will be closed, and there will be no parking today along the following streets from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.: Jabotinsky, Hanassi, Herzl, Ben-

Tzvi, Rabin, Rupin, Balfour and King David. All cars along those routes will be towed, and drivers can retrieve them by calling 100 or 106.

In the immediate vicinity surrounding the hotel, some 500 police, including a special Border Police anti-terror unit, will secure the area, and snipers have been deployed on rooftops.



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# AD 120

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To: President Clinton, Bibi Netanyahu, and All the Members of The Israeli Knesset

From: David Ben-Gurion

No Jew has the right to yield the rights of the Jewish people in Israel.

No Jew has the authority to do so. No Jewish body has the authority to do so.

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Even if Jews in a specific period proclaim they are relinquishing this right, they have neither the power nor the authority to deny this right to future generations. No concession of this type is binding or obligates the Jewish people.

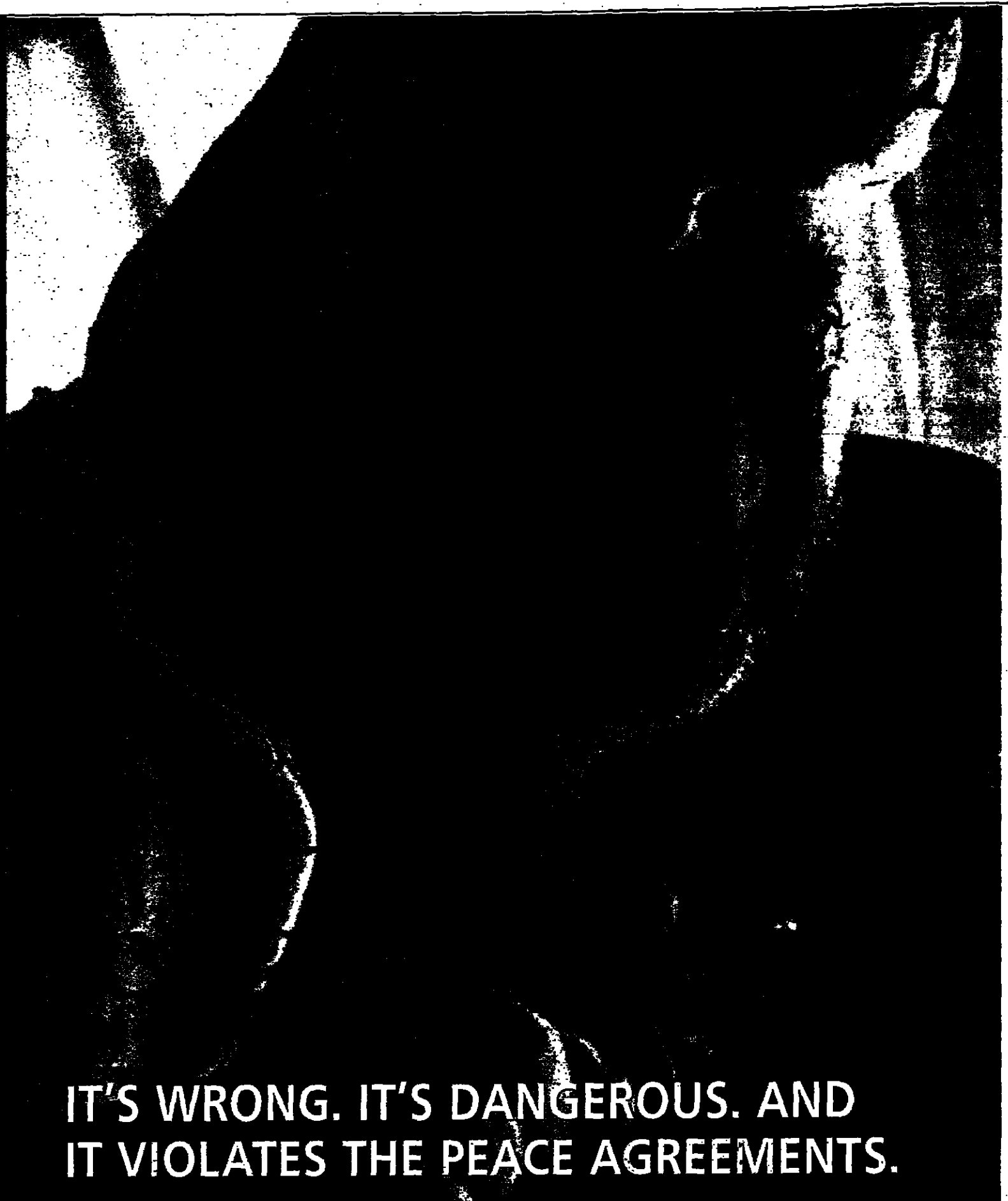
Our right to the country — to the entire country — exists as an eternal right, and until the full and completed redemption is realized, we shall not yield our historic right.

David Ben-Gurion (Basic Zionist Congress, 1937)

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## Shahak seen entering politics soon

By SARAH HONIG

Former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak confirmed over the weekend that he will be entering politics soon, following a cooling-off period.

Reports to this effect injected new tension into the political arena on Friday. Shahak, while confirming that he plans to cut his leave short, said he has not yet decided just when this would occur.

Nevertheless, if the political grapevine is to be believed, the announcement would come in about two weeks, shortening Shahak's military leave by eight months.

This is taken as the first sign that Shahak is indeed intent on throwing his hat into the political ring. He must observe a 100-day cooling-off period between leaving his leave and becoming a candidate for any political office.

Shahak apparently believes that elections are in the offing and that he therefore cannot remain officially in the military any longer.

There is no inkling yet as to whether he would enter a yet-unlaunched centrist list or whether he would join Labor. The bets are on the former option.

The Likud welcomed Shahak to politics with an official statement yesterday, in which it congratulated him for "having finally decided to leave the IDF. He had in fact been deeply engaged in politics long before."

"His meetings with politicians while still [in the army] were improper. When the Likud categorized Shahak as a leftist it had no intention of insulting him but of stating a political fact."

Likud MK Reuven Rivlin added that "Shahak's political activity is nothing new, since he had long been signalling about his intentions and positions. His claims to be undecided were nothing but a smoke-screen to conceal his actual leftist orientation."

On the Right, meanwhile, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon announced upon his return from the US on Friday that he plans "to redouble efforts to bring David Levy back into the Likud."

On Friday, Sharon told a meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Likud MKs that "Levy must be brought back even if the price has to be the co-opting of hundreds of Geshar members into the Likud central committee."

MK Yisrael Katz, one of those who rose up against the deal earlier in the month, retorted that "at this price it will fail again."

Levy confidante David Appel told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that "it is not impossible that Levy would be back in the coalition and the Likud after all, if a true hand of friendship is extended to him."

Netanyahu met on Friday with the Likud ministers who opposed the Wye Memorandum and then with Likud MKs.

He said he "will not yield on demands that the Arab side live up to its end of the bargain at Wye."

## Council: Underground IDF base owes taxes

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The head of the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council has complained that the Defense Ministry is not paying his district the correct amount of property taxes for what he describes as a large base in his area with underground installations.

Council head Meir Weizel said the Defense Ministry will not allow anyone to measure the installation so the proper rates cannot be determined.

He said the Defense Ministry told him the base in question, has just 38 dunams (nine acres) of taxable land and only 1,000 square meters of taxable structures.

But Weizel claims it is many thousands times this figure, both above and below ground, and accused the ministry of taking advantage of its status to get out of paying its bill according to the law.

Weizel told *The Jerusalem Post* the council is demanding rates for military installations "just like all the other regional councils."

"I don't know what they have in that big chunk of land over there, but when we asked for the rates they came back and said that the base is only 38 dunams. And you can write that!" Weizel said.

"I can't go in there and measure what they have. But I know from foreign reports that it's much, much larger than that," Weizel said.

He added that the base is large. "When we countered their claim they told us, 'That's the way it is, take it or leave it,'" Weizel said.

Last week, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's spokesman, Avi Benayahu, complained on Israel Radio that regional council heads across the country were pushing for increased rates and refusing to cooperate with the military.

"And there is a head of a certain regional council who has read in *Jane's* that there is a base in the boundaries of his district with underground installations and has demanded rates for these underground installations," Benayahu said.

Council spokesman Haim Hazan said the Defense Ministry claims it is only obligated to pay for above-ground structures.

"They can't say they have [a few] square meters of structures there, when we know that most of the structures are underground," Hazan said. "We estimate that it is thousands, of square meters of structures."

"It is the rule that underground structures, like basements and parking lots, are included in the tally of meterage. But [the Defense Ministry] told us 'No. You can only charge for what is above the ground.'"

Hazan said the ministry paid the council NIS 600,000 in 1997, but this year the ministry has paid only NIS 400,000.

"It didn't even cover the 1997 rates assessment," Hazan said. He said they were taking advantage of the status of the base "to get out of paying taxes."

According to the budgetary arrangements law, the Defense Ministry must pay municipalities

and regional councils taxes on its bases.

"We are asking for NIS 2 million," Hazan said, citing that the base sits on a large area of the regional council's land.

Hazan said that the IDF, which runs the base, was also taking arbitrary action by unilaterally subtracting from their bill fees for garbage collection. They have a contract with a private firm to remove the garbage, possibly for security reasons, but that has nothing to do with the taxes, Hazan said.

"The law says there is no link between the services and the rates," Hazan said.

Hazan would not say what services the regional council provides the base.

"Their answers are evasive and the problem is they won't let us actually go in and measure what they have. We have to take their word for it, when we know that it's not right."

Defense Ministry spokesman Dan Weinreich said the ministry "regretted" Weizel's statements,

saying the charges of evading rate payments are "without any factual basis."

Weinreich said the amount of taxes paid to Mateh Yehuda is classified, but added that taxes are paid to regional councils throughout the country for bases, even though many do not receive any services for their money. These services include things such as garbage pickup, lighting, sewage, and road works.

He said that measurements of IDF bases and installations are carried out by the ministry and the information is then handed over to the regional councils for the purpose of assessing rates.

"Due to pure security reasons, the defense establishment must prevent any leak of classified information regarding the size and use of installations within IDF bases," Weinreich said.

Weinreich added that the Defense Ministry has in the past remeasured bases at the request of some regional councils and shown them the figures "within the confines of state secrecy."

Senior ministry officials have often expressed contempt for the added expense to the defense budget, noting they paid out NIS 140 million in rates in 1998.

"We pay 100 times more than farmers," one official said recently in a closed forum. "Tank sheds are not charged the same as tractor sheds. We are paying for bunkers, since they are permanent structures."

In his interview with Israel Radio, Benayahu said that regional council heads may have lost their perspective on the importance of security.

"There is a head of a regional council who is not prepared for a certain type of weapons system to be deployed in his district. There is a regional council head who is demanding high rates for IDF positions along the Lebanon border," Benayahu said. "We are getting a little mixed up with what is happening in this country... We have to choose between concern over the quality of life and concern over life itself. The balance has to be kept."



Dress rehearsal

From left: Ariel, Alon, Daniela, and Shir practice lighting Hanukkah candles last week at their WIZO nursery school in Tel Aviv. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

## Netanyahu gathers Likud MKs for pep talk

Possible sign of looming election

By LIAT COLLINS

In another sign of preparation for possible elections, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gathered Likud MKs for a pep talk Friday and asked for unity within the party. The meeting was attended by all the Likud MKs except his opponents Uzi Landau, Zeev (Benny) Begin, David Re'em and Dan Meridor.

The prime minister apparently focused on the damage to the party caused by last Monday's debate on the early elections bill when MKs from Left and Right paraded through his office with demands on the peace process.

The vote was eventually turned into a no-confidence motion to be held Monday week.

Netanyahu reportedly told the MKs the scene would not be repeated during the next vote and the party would not be seen to be moving to either right or left even for coalition purposes.

According to one source, Netanyahu said that if early elections are held the MKs should show a united front and ensure the elections are dignified. "There was a definite feeling of 'If there are going to be elections, don't let anyone scare you with

the threat of them.' It was an attempt by Bibi to show he is being considerate of us," said the source.

Geshar leader David Levy's possible return to the cabinet also came up. The MKs were divided with many saying that Levy's return on its own was not enough to outweigh the possible shrinking of the already depleted Likud faction. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon spoke in favor of bringing Levy back to strengthen the coalition before the talks on the final status arrangements.

Several MKs apparently called for a national unity government. However Netanyahu agreed that if Labor thinks it can topple the government it will prefer to do that than to join it.

The MKs also discussed whether it was preferable to go to the polls through a no-confidence motion or through the bill for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections. Many apparently favor the no-confidence option as this clearly entails new elections within 60 days whereas the dissolution and early elections bill requires further committee debates and plenum hearings making the exact date open to negotiation.

## IAF raids south Lebanon

NABATTIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — IAF warplanes attacked suspected Hizbullah hideouts in south Lebanon yesterday, firing missiles and bullets, Lebanese security officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. There was also no

word on what prompted the attack.

The jets fired two rockets and strafed the Jabal al-Rafih mountain, a Hizbullah stronghold that faces the security zone, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Nearly two hours later, two

Israeli warplanes flew low over suspected Hizbullah bases in the western Bekaa Valley, but they did not attack, officials said.

Anti-aircraft guns of the Lebanese army and Hizbullah fired at the jets but missed, the officials added.

## Ya'alón: Most arms smuggled from Iraq

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Most of the weapons smugglers attempting to sneak across the Jordanian border originate in Iraq, says OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alón.

Ya'alón said that Jordanian officials were closely cooperating to halt the arms smuggling into Judea and Samaria. He was speaking at the annual conference of military judges held recently in Jerusalem and his comments were reported in the IDF magazine *B'mahane*.

"There are lots of attempts to smuggle weapons but we are successfully dealing with them thanks to the cooperation with the Jordanians," Ya'alón was quoted as saying.

Ya'alón, a former OC Intelligence, said that it turned out most of the arms originated in Iraq.

"A weapon which can be bought in Iraq for 50 dinars is sold in Jordan for 2,000 dinars, and it is a lot more than that in Israel. So there is a financial temptation for whole groups of people to deal in gun running in the Dead Sea area," Ya'alón said.

Last March, IDF reservists captured at least three Palestinians smuggling a large cache of weapons across the Dead Sea, a known gun-running route. That cache included 60 Kalashnikov assault rifles, seven shotguns, 38 pistols, ammunition and clips.

IDF officers originally said the

weapons were bound for elements within the Palestinian Authority, but they later said they were being smuggled in to be sold on the lucrative black market.

Ya'alón said most of the weapons found this year were confiscated in Judea and Samaria, but noted that many were also uncovered by Jordanian security forces.

Ya'alón also said weapons were smuggled into the Gaza Strip from the Sinai Peninsula. He said this included TNT made out of Israeli land mines dismantled in the Sinai. These explosives were smuggled in via tunnels under the border separating Egypt from the Gaza Strip. Dozens of these tunnels are discovered and destroyed by the IDF every year.

## 'Jane's': Europe in reach of Iranian ICBMs in 5 years

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Western Europe will come under the threat of an Iranian attack from intercontinental rockets within five years, according to *Jane's Intelligence Review*.

The assessment in the latest issue of the respected London-based publication somewhat counters that of Israeli and Western intelligence agencies, which

believe the long-range ballistic missile threat from Iran to be "many years off."

According to *Jane's*, Iran now has in motion an advanced ballistic missile research and development infrastructure aiming to produce a 4,000-6,000 km-range missile, using North Korean multi-stage rocket technology.

The article quotes former US secretary of defense Donald

Rumsfeld as saying North Korea is "only a relatively short step from a deployable intercontinental ballistic missile [ICBM] capability."

Iran, which has a sounder economy than North Korea, is considered more than capable of developing an ICBM. North Korea, which launched a three-stage missile in August, has said it would not export missile technology in

return for hard currency. *Jane's* reported.

This contradicts the assessment by IDF Intelligence, which has said that Iran and North Korea had agreed to cooperate on missile technology.

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# Clinton says he would accept censure

By ARSHAD MOHAMMED

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Staggered by the drive to impeach him, a "profoundly sorry" President Bill Clinton said on Friday he is ready to accept censure by Congress, but stopped short of admitting to perjury allegations against him.

The president made his latest expression of contrition for his affair with Monica Lewinsky and his efforts to conceal it in a hastily arranged Rose Garden appearance minutes before the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee voted the first of two articles of impeachment against him for perjury.

It was unclear whether Clinton's remarks would turn the tide in the full House, where many Republicans insist he admit to perjury in order to avoid becoming the second US president to be impeached.

"What I want the American people to know, what I want the Congress to know, is that I am profoundly sorry for all I have done wrong in words and deeds," Clinton told reporters.

"More words cannot fully express the profound remorse I feel for what our country is going through and for what members of both the parties in Congress are now forced to deal with," he said. "Should they determine that my errors of word and deed require their rebuke and censure, I am ready to accept that." Clinton directed his comments as much at the public as at the few dozen moderate House Republicans who will have his fate in their hands next Thursday, when the full House is expected to vote on whether to impeach him.

The president has suffered a remarkable reverse of fortunes since the November 3 mid-term elections, when the Democrats' strong showing - picking up five seats in the House - was seen by many as a clear vote for Clinton and against impeachment.

While admitting Clinton's statement on Friday could be seen as a tactical move of testing public sentiment before seeing whether he really must admit to perjury, one official said it was not clear whether he would ever admit to lying under oath.

"At first glance, it looks tactical," said the official. "But given his statements... it seems more fundamental." A senior White House official suggested that nothing Clinton could say would ever satisfy the Republicans. "I don't think it really matters what we say. We'll never clear the bar they set. It's an impossible task," he said.

While Clinton has steadfastly refused to admit to perjury, the White House on Thursday embraced a Democratic censure proposal under which he would admit to "false statements" about his relationship with Lewinsky.

One senior aide said Clinton had been pondering Friday's statement for days and believed that "it was important for the American people and this Congress to know how he feels." The White House is scrambling to spare Clinton the indignity of joining Andrew Johnson to become only the second US president to be impeached and to avoid the distraction of a Senate trial, which could drag on for months.

In 1868 Johnson was saved by one vote in the Senate after the House voted to impeach him.

## The president's apology

WASHINGTON (AP) - In silence, President Bill Clinton turned his back and left the reporter's question hanging - Would he resign if impeached by the House? - in the twilight chill of the Rose Garden.

The door to the Oval Office held open for him, Clinton slipped back into his private sanctuary. His dog, Buddy, was there as the president waited to see if his latest apology could favorably alter his fate.

"I would give anything to go back and undo what I did," Clinton told reporters hastily summoned to the garden Friday.

"I understand that accountability demands consequences and I'm prepared to accept them." His 11th-hour appeal for a penalty less than impeachment was his most dramatic move yet in the White House campaign to see the president punished on his own terms by Congress and the nation.

A senior presidential adviser,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said the address did little good. Fence-straddling lawmakers, particularly moderate Republicans, still want him to concede that he lied under oath. Clinton was urged by aides to do that Friday, "but he wouldn't do it," the adviser said.

"Not yet." Aides would not rule out yet another personal appeal from Clinton. "You could call it opening the bidding," one senior adviser said after Friday's statement. It concluded just minutes before the first of three House Judiciary Committee votes recommending Clinton's removal from office for his conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Clinton mustered the full weight of presidential symbolism even as the pages of his speech shook in his hands and he faced TV cameras without the phalanx of aides who would otherwise fill out the frame.

Before Clinton emerged alone from the Oval Office to deliver the

rehearsed statement, two junior-level aides flanked with a pair of flags - the Stars and Stripes and the navy-blue banner emblazoned with the presidential seal - and posed at the lectern to make sure they perfectly framed the president's shoulders.

So fixed was Clinton's solemn gaze as he stepped toward the microphone that he bumped his right shoulder into one of the colonnade's thick white pillars.

Clinton's statement, which went no further than his earlier acknowledgments that he "misled" people and committed "errors of word and deed," was intended to buy time by holding undecided House members in line before the full House votes as early as next Friday.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, a Louisiana Republican, said he remains undecided on whether to vote for impeachment but was disappointed that the president did not admit to lying.



President Bill Clinton walks back to the Oval Office Friday, after making a statement of contrition in the Rose Garden. (AP)

## Moderate Republicans not impressed by appeal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton's effort on Friday to appeal to the moderate Republicans he needs to prevent an impeachment trial left some of his targets cold.

After his television appearance in which he expressed his remorse for his Oval Office affair and said he was ready

to accept censure by Congress, Representative Bob Franks of New Jersey said Clinton failed to make his case against impeachment.

"What was needed from the president today was an admission, not contrition," Franks said in a statement. "As the president attempted to make his case, he seemed to be saying, 'I'm sorry, but I didn't do it.'"

The National Enquirer said Representative Mary Bono, who replaced her husband Sonny Bono in Congress, may have had an affair with her karate instructor before her husband was killed in a skiing accident last January. Bono's spokesman denied the story.

And Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, who appeared before the committee earlier this month as an expert witness, blasted Representative Bob Barr of Georgia for speaking to a white supremacist group in June.

Barr told reporters the Council of Conservative Citizens asked him to address it about impeachment, and said he did not know it harbored "some members with very unusual views" until after he spoke at the meeting.

Dershowitz called the group a "softer version of the KKK (that) overtly espouses racism and anti-Semitism."

Next week's House of Representatives vote on the articles

appeared too tight to call, with a handful of moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats holding his fate. If the House passes one or more articles, Clinton will be tried next year in the Senate, where a two-thirds majority would be needed to remove him from office.

"This changes nothing," said Marge Roukema, another New Jersey Republican who had said earlier she would vote for impeachment.

"I guess this was the president's signal that he would accept some sort of censure. However, I consider censure to be a plea bargain and therefore outside the bounds of the House impeachment process," Roukema said.

But another of the moderate Republicans that Clinton needs to defeat articles of impeachment said he remained undecided.

Representative Michael Castle of Delaware said that after Clinton's remarks, calls from his constituents showed more support for censuring the president as an alternative to impeachment.

Earlier on Friday, two other previously undecided Republican lawmakers, Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida and Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, declared they favored impeachment.

Members of the House Judiciary Committee, which voted on party lines to send articles of impeachment to the House floor, were similarly split in their views of Clinton's remarks.

## US press: Apology too little, too late

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton's latest apology was too little, too late, and he should admit to lying under oath as his only hope to fend off impeachment, leading US newspapers said yesterday.

While saying Clinton did not deserve to be removed from office, editorials said contrition counted for little unless Clinton set the record straight by confessing to perjury.

"There is something objectionable about yet another example of verbally excessive breast-beating combined with the appearance - devoid of the reality - of candor," an editorial in *The Washington Post* said.

Moments before the first vote against him on Friday, Clinton hastily assembled reporters at the White House to express deep remorse and say that he was "profoundly sorry" for his words and deeds in the sex and lies scandal.

Although Clinton said for the first time publicly that he was willing to accept congressional censure instead of impeachment, newspapers said his contrition was little different from what he has already said.

"It is hard to fathom what gain Bill Clinton thought he could achieve yesterday in restating his remorse over the Monica Lewinsky case while still dodging the core issue of his deceitful testimony under oath," *The New York Times* said.

"He declared his readiness to accept Congressional censure, but could not bring himself to say the words that could produce that outcome," the *Times* said.

*The Washington Post* agreed. "There is little in this type of ritual apology that ought to help Mr. Clinton's case."

"What would be right is for him to admit finally the obvious facts that he lied under oath," the *Post* said. "Then he could make the case, a case we grudgingly support, that his offences, while grave, should not cause his impeachment."

*The Boston Globe* chided Clinton for his timing, saying Friday's tone and degree of self-condemnation fit his "offences" better than his first acknowledgment in August of an "inappropriate" relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"If President Clinton had said on August 17 what he said yesterday afternoon, the momentum for impeachment might be far different from what it is now," the *Boston Globe* said.

*The Los Angeles Times* said most Americans favoured censure of Clinton by the House and Senate for dishonoring the office of president, along the lines already drawn up by Clinton's Democratic supporters.

"We think a joint resolution along these lines, signed by Clinton in acknowledgment of his reprehensible misconduct, would provide a responsible alternative to impeachment," the *Los Angeles Times* said. "That is what most Americans continue to favour, not least because they wisely want to bring this dirty business to a rapid end."

*The San Francisco Examiner* said, "Unless Americans send Congress a clear message of their discontent, they will wake up one day late next week to learn that the president they elected has been impeached in this runaway process."

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## UN inspectors in Iraq resume work

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - UN weapons inspectors resumed full-scale operations in Iraq yesterday and sources played down the reported cancellation Friday of activities by a team at the center of an earlier dispute.

"Everyone's gone out. We are carrying out our full range of activities," UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) spokeswoman Caroline Cross said.

She declined to confirm an Iraqi report that a team of inspectors led by Australian Roger Hill, which was denied full access to offices of Iraq's ruling Baath Party Wednesday, had canceled inspections Friday.

But UNSCOM sources said the report, if true, was of "no great significance," citing a range of logistical reasons why inspections could be called off or delayed.

UNSCOM has reported a number of cases of Iraqi interference over

the last week, primarily the Baath Party incident. It said a biological weapons team had also postponed an inspection after Iraqi officials imposed conditions on the team.

In addition, Iraq's information minister said yesterday Baghdad hoped the new six-month stage of its UN-approved oil-for-food accord would be the last before a full lifting of sanctions.

"We have experience of the last four stages. Everyone knows the experience," Humam Abdul-Khaleq Abdul-Ghafur said of the deal, which allows sanctions-hit Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil under UN supervision to pay for humanitarian purchases.

"We have reports from international bodies who say the value of what was achieved is very limited - no change in the situation of health and food supply to the Iraqi people," he told reporters.

## EU skirts funding rows, stresses fight against unemployment

By RICHARD MURPHY

VIENNA (Reuters) - European Union leaders skirted rows over future EU funding reforms and enlargement at the end of a two-day summit yesterday, stressing unity in the fight against the scourge of unemployment.

The summit agreed to combine solidarity with budgetary rigor as the EU prepares to admit new members from eastern Europe, but dashed the hopes of some former communist countries who wanted speedier membership talks.

In a blatantly populist move, leaders agreed to review the impact on jobs of an earlier decision to kill off duty-free sales next summer, although Britain, France and Germany failed to win a firm com-

mitment to postpone the duty-free abolition.

In the key area of EU reforms, the heads of government did little more than identify the main issues - chiefly money - on which they disagreed.

But they reaffirmed a commitment to concluding the so-called Agenda 2000 package of EU financing and farm spending reforms in time for a special March 24-25 summit in Brussels.

The concluding document said reforms to prepare the EU for enlargement had to be conducted "in a spirit of solidarity, while ensuring similar budgetary rigor at the level of the Union as applied at national level."

Money is at the heart of the row over the EU's future.

Germany and other rich members are determined to reduce their net contributions to the EU budget while poorer countries such as Spain, the main beneficiary of EU regional aid, refuse to accept cuts in the subsidies they get from Brussels.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair made clear he had no intention of relinquishing the \$3.3 billion annual rebate Britain receives on its contributions to the EU.

"When we talk about making our full contribution, we certainly do intend to do that, but not through disturbing arrangements that are there for reasons of equity and fairness for the UK, or indeed for any other country," he said.

Blair said the best way to reform the EU budget would be to reform the Common Agricultural Policy

(CAP) which eats up almost half the annual EU budget of \$100 billion.

However, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok warned Britain that its rebate could not be excluded from the reform debate.

"There are no taboos," Kok said. "My view is that every element of EU finance should be on the table."

The leaders ventured cautiously into the thorny area of coordinating tax policy, which is strongly advocated by Germany's ruling Social Democrats but feared by Britain.

They agreed on the need for "cooperation" on taxes and in combating harmful tax competition, but said there was no intention to seek a general tax harmonization.

The document offered little fresh encouragement to countries queuing to join the EU.

The summit agreed only to maintain the pace of enlargement as planned, rejecting a European Commission suggestion that Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia be offered fast-track accession negotiations if they continued post-Soviet reform efforts.

Unemployment was put firmly at the top of the political agenda, with member states urged to set specific goals for reducing the bloc's 17 million army of jobless.

"Employment is the top priority of the European Union," the summit communique said.

Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson said the communique confirmed the EU's shift to Social Democrat values, reflecting the fact that 13 of the bloc's 15 nations have left-leaning parties in power.

## Death toll in Thailand air crash nears 100

By DAVID BRUNSTROM

SURAT THANI, Thailand (Reuters) - Almost 100 people were killed Friday evening when Thai Airways Airbus Flight TG261 crashed while trying to land in southern Thailand, police said yesterday.

Forty-six people, including 12 foreigners, survived the accident, which occurred in darkness and driving rain three km from the airport. Thai Airways airline officials said.

They included 12 foreigners - three Japanese, two Israelis, four Australians, two Germans, and one Briton. Police said there were only 43 survivors, but gave no details.

The two Israeli survivors are Assaf and Limor Rafael, who were lightly injured.

Police said five US citizens were among the dead.

Hundreds of rescue workers waded through a muddy swamp to pull charred bodies from the wreckage of the plane, which was carrying 146 passengers and crew.

They used heavy cutting equipment to open the fuselage of the A310-200 jet and recover the dead, including the remains of a pilot trapped in the cockpit, rescue officials said.

Police said at least 97 people were dead, some of whom were still inside the fuselage, which caught fire after the crash.

The plane came down as it was trying to land at Surat Thani Airport, on the mainland near the popular island holiday resort of Koh Samui, airline officials said.

Rescue workers from police, the military, and private organizations battled through thick mud and chest-high flood waters in a steady drizzle and found the plane's flight recorder near the wreckage. Helicopters circled overhead.

The plane's broken wings were some distance from the fuselage, which was split in two, one-half stuck in water. Trees nearby were charred from flames that had enveloped the plane.

About 250 rescue workers sifted through smashed plane parts, life jackets, luggage, and other debris floating in the water.



Rescuers row yesterday in a Thai swamp through the wreckage of a Thai Airways Airbus which crashed Friday night, killing nearly 100 on board.

"It's very difficult work because of all the mud after the rain. The operation will continue till we find all the bodies. So far most of the bodies found trapped in the plane were strapped in seat belts," said Air Force Sergeant Komim Sinsomboon.

Survivors said the aircraft had made two attempts to land at Surat Thani before it crashed on the third attempt. Passengers had been told to prepare for an emergency.

Cabin crew member Kitti

Tantiraksa said passengers started to panic as the plane made its last desperate attempt to land.

"People lost control of themselves and started shouting and screaming," he told Reuters from his hospital bed.

Limor Rafael said many passengers were laughing, perhaps nervously, before the plane crashed.

"I was shaking," she told Reuters. "But everyone was laughing. But once it came down, everyone was screaming, crying and

there was a lot of shouting."

With local resources stretched to the limit, corpses were laid out on benches in the main waiting room at the hospital and charred bodies lay on open ward trolleys. At the airport, crash victims were loaded into body bags in full view of horrified passengers awaiting other flights.

The European Consortium Airbus Industrie said it was sending a team of experts from its Toulouse headquarters in south-

west France to help in the crash inquiry. Airbus spokesman Sean Lee said the company had "absolutely no idea whatever" what had caused the crash.

A senior international air crash investigator told Reuters bad weather appeared to be a likely cause of the accident, but pilot error could not be ruled out.

Airport officials said the landing aid equipment at Surat Thani had been "operating perfectly" on Friday.

## Pinochet: I am innocent, a martyr for peace

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Chile's National Security Council of top civil and military leaders vowed at a crisis meeting on Friday to press the right of former dictator Augusto Pinochet to return home.

Pinochet, in a "Letter to Chile" read out by his one-time interior minister Carlos Caceres, said he had no blood on his hands from his 17-year military rule.

"I am absolutely innocent of all the crimes and deeds of which they irrationally accuse me," read the rambling 13-page letter.

Pinochet appeared in a London court on Friday and was remanded on bail.

Spain wants him extradited to face charges of genocide and torture during his dictatorship when more than 3,000 were killed or disappeared, among them many foreigners, including Spanish

citizens.

In his letter, Pinochet, 83, portrayed himself as a soldier who served his country, a savior who rescued Chile from the "anti-religion" of communism and a martyr who would unite Chileans through his suffering.

Pinochet said he had "been the object of a cunning and cowardly political-judicial plot" and added that those against whom he fought during his rule are now his judges.

Pinochet, who has refused to recognize the jurisdiction of any court outside Chile to try him, wrote that he was willing to offer himself as a sacrifice "so that peace triumphs."

"I hope my sacrifice is the last. I hope my pain and the aggression of which I am a victim can satisfy the insatiable sentiments of revenge," Pinochet wrote.

## Astronauts wrap up work on space station

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - With the doors to the international space station closed and locked, Endeavour's astronauts turned their attention back to the exterior of the outpost and prepared for a final spacewalk yesterday to install a tool bag and unjam a stuck antenna.

"There's no time to let up yet," shuttle commander Robert Cabana said.

Astronauts Jerry Ross and James Newman were to head out on their third spacewalk of the mission to attach a sack of tools to the American-made Unity chamber for use on subsequent assembly flights.

They also planned to use a 10-foot pole to try to deploy another stuck antenna on the Russian Zarya control module. The first of two jammed antennas was unfurled during a spacewalk Wednesday.

Yesterday's six-and-a-half-hour

outing was to conclude with a photo survey of the seven-story, 35-ton space station.

In their earlier spacewalks, Ross and Newman connected electrical and data cables and attached antennas to the outside of Unity. The work went well, although two tools and a thermal cover got loose from Ross and floated away - rare mistakes for America's most experienced spacewalker.

On Friday, the astronauts completed about 27 hours of work inside the space station before turning out the lights and closing the hatches. The outpost will be released from the shuttle's cargo bay today, two days before Endeavour returns to Earth.

While inside, the crew wired up a communications system, removed bolts that had been installed to reinforce the two modules for launch and cleared a blocked air duct in Zarya.

## British woman has child from dead husband's sperm

LONDON (Reuters) - A British woman has given birth to a baby boy after she was impregnated with sperm from her dead husband, British media reported yesterday.

Diane Blood named the baby Liam Stephen Blood, after his father Stephen, who died of meningitis in 1995. The child was born on Friday at a hospital in Sheffield.

Sky TV said he was being assisted with his breathing and was being fed intravenously.

Blood has said she and her husband had been planning to have

children before he contracted meningitis. Doctors removed sperm from her husband at her request while he was in a coma before his death. But she had to fight a court battle to use the sperm, because it had been taken without her husband's written permission.

## Russian commandos free UN hostage in Ossetia, killing 3 kidnappers

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian commandos yesterday rescued a French UN official held for nearly 11 months in Russia's southern region of North Ossetia, killing three kidnappers in the five-minute raid.

Vincent Cochetel, who headed the office of the UN High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in North Ossetia, said he knows who his captors are and demanded they be seized and put on trial.

The 37-year-old refugee official, kidnapped by masked gunmen in the regional capital, Vladikavkas, in late January, said his ordeal had

been marked by violence and suffering. But he said he is happy he was released without a ransom being paid.

Russian news agencies have said the captors sought several million dollars for his release.

Looking physically fit but exhausted, he appeared in Moscow hours

after Russian commandos freed him on the border between the southern region of Ingushetia and the break-away province of Chechnya.

"The operation lasted five minutes," he told NTV commercial television. "Three terrorists were killed and two commandos were wounded, but apparently not too serious-

ly... I want to thank Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, the Interior Ministry, all the Russian authorities and of course French President Jacques Chirac who helped to free me... For the first time in my life people risked their lives for me."

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## Censure and move on

President Bill Clinton's flight from domestic turmoil in Washington to the political turmoil of the Middle East provides a stark rebuttal to those who have argued that, since the rest of the world does not seem to care politically about the Monica Lewinsky affair, the matter is irrelevant to US foreign policy.

The fact is, it does matter, and those who have so relentlessly pursued Clinton to the brink of impeachment over it have done, and are doing, the United States a grave disservice. Some 70 percent of the US people do not want Clinton removed from office, the rest of the world does not want him removed from office. The impeachment procedure, which was always meant to be a grave and solemn judicial process for serious crimes against the republic, has turned into a partisan witch-hunt almost as tawdry as the sexual affair that sparked it.

If the US Congress pursues this impeachment to the bitter end, it will irreparably degrade the constitutional purpose of the procedure, devalue the presidency, and damage the country. Clinton's Republican enemies have not yet grasped the eminent common sense of the American public in seeing that a matter of sex and lies is not an issue of life and death - like the Middle East peace process, for just one example of what should seriously concern the House and the presidency at this time. American attitudes seem closer to those of Europe than anyone might have suspected, as people wonder why a president should be hounded from office for human weaknesses often considered routine, and certainly private, among politicians of the Old World.

Americans sought to send the Congress a clear message in the November mid-term elections. They do not condone Clinton's behavior, but they did not elect him for his sanctity, but to do the job he is doing well. The verdict of the people may have cost Newt Gingrich his job as

House Speaker, but the Republican camp seems not to have heeded it. They are now bent on removing a president against the will of the people and that, if done, will be a sorry day for the United States. When Richard Nixon resigned amid impeachment proceedings over Watergate, it was clear to everyone - himself included - that the people agreed with Congress that he was a crook unworthy of remaining in office.

In Clinton's case, it is equally clear from the elections and the opinion polls that most Americans think he is a hard-working president, twice elected, who delivered on his election pledges. His sexual exploits were undoubtedly a newsworthy matter for debate, human interest and censure, but the public is instinctively wary of letting governments and politicians run loose in the area of sexual privacy.

Now that Congress is rapidly approaching the point of no return and a Senate trial, it is time for the lawmakers to draw back and consider what they are doing. The offenses, blown out of all proportion, do not warrant removing an elected and popular president by the secular equivalent of a papal excommunication. The process is turning into a dangerous runaway train heading to collide with the pillars of the presidency.

It is unlikely in any case that his critics can muster the necessary two-thirds majority to remove him from office. All a Senate trial will achieve is further national paralysis, humiliation, and division. The president should now be officially censured for treating the Oval Office like a massage parlor, and for besmirching with lies and evasions the world's most respected elected appointment. But nobody died, no damage to the nation's security or democracy was done, no presidential plundering of the state has been suggested. There is nothing left to finish the matter swiftly and sharply, and let Americans and their government get on with their lives until the 2000 elections.

## Kid gloves in Vienna

This weekend's European Union summit in Vienna leaves a less than satisfactory impression that the EU knows exactly where it is going. Not surprisingly, with most of its governments now center-left, the summit put the fight against unemployment on the top of the agenda.

This is a motherhood issue for any leader of socialist leanings and the unanimous enthusiasm for plans to get Europe's 17 million unemployed back to work was to be expected. It cannot, however, disguise the leaders' failure to address some very serious policy issues, as the arrival of the continent's new currency, the euro, looms a mere few weeks away.

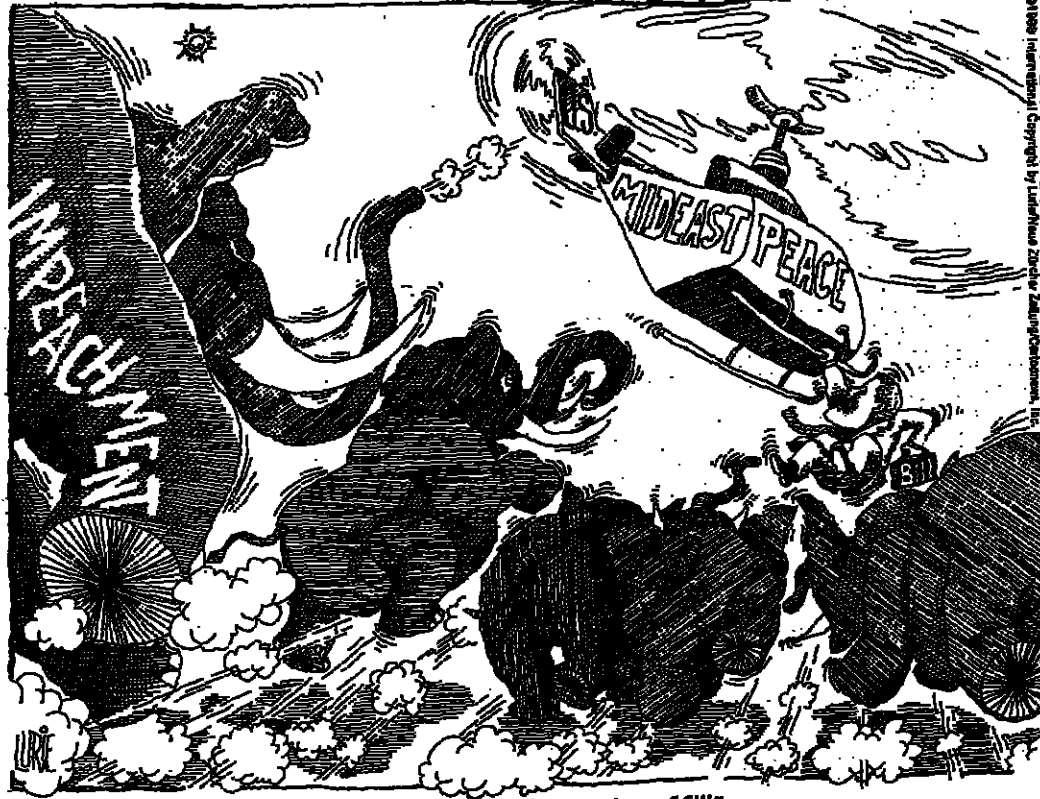
The delegates clearly were wearing kid gloves when they tried to handle sharp divisions over financing and enlarging the EU in the coming new century. Even on the logical but unpopular

plan to abolish the duty-free sales beloved by European travelers, the EU leaders backed off and hinted they might delay the target date of ending duty-free by next summer. An examination of the possible impact on unemployment provided a convenient fig leaf for a populist pause.

The summit did little to face the huge task of bringing in up to 10 new members, or the equally massive reforms its funding and structure will need. This may have avoided a major quarrel over who pays what to the \$100 billion EU budget, and it put the planning off to the next summit in Brussels in March.

But sooner or later, these leaders will have to realize that, for their new currency to stand up decisively against the US dollar, EU market and business forces will not allow their governments the luxury of hesitating to grasp thorny issues.

## Lurie's NewsCartoon



"For heaven's sake... take off!!!"

## A significant visit

ITAMAR RABINOVICH

President Bill Clinton's visit begins this morning against an unusual backdrop - a chorus of critical voices, some of them from within the Israeli cabinet, expressing unhappiness with the visit or some of its aspects.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did little to transform the atmosphere by issuing a lukewarm welcome to his senior guest. A controversy rages as to whose idea it was to initiate the visit, with regard to both agenda and procedure.

How did a country, craving for any manifestation of US friendship, get to this point? Why is there so little interest in a visit by the president of the US, in an international arena in which a visit to the White House or by the White House is the most desirable diplomatic exploit?

And, finally, can there still be value to this visit in the context of the Israeli-Arab peace process? Three developments converged in order to trivialize and controversialize the prelude to President Clinton's visit:

• Ironically, the president has been too accessible to Israelis and Arabs. During his first term, Clinton traveled three times to the region and made a fourth trip to Geneva to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

He received Israel's prime minister and foreign minister, King Hussein, President Mubarak, Yasser Arafat and Syria's foreign minister on numerous occasions in the Oval Office. His first secretary of state made more than 20 trips to the region.

Other parts of the world and other conflicts are not privileged to receive such expressions of time, attention and goodwill.

The president's personal involvement in the peace process has been reduced during his second term, but overall he has intervened twice, in September 1996 and this past October, in order to prevent a breakdown. Unfortunately, both Israelis and Arabs have lost their sense of proportion in the face of this generosity. Both have come to take it for granted.

• The unexpected resurgence of the Lewinsky affair. The Democratic Party's success in the November elections and Newt Gingrich's resignation were chiefly responsible for the sense that the Lewinsky affair was practically over, that the president was back to

the normal conduct of business.

As we now know, the Republican leadership chose to act differently, has resuscitated the issue and pushed through articles of impeachment in the House Judiciary Committee.

It is generally assumed that the president will sail through the present crisis as well, but this unexpected turn of events has placed a major diplomatic mission to the Middle East in the context of a severe domestic crisis.

• The Israeli-Palestinian peace process is different from the other tracks of Arab-Israeli reconciliation and does not follow the same rules. In earlier instances of Israeli-Arab peacemaking, an improvement of the Arab peacemaking parties' relationship with Washington was an important dimension of the process.

The pattern was begun by Egypt, which in the 1970s completed the passage from a proxy relationship with Moscow to a special relationship with Washington. Egypt now receives \$2 billion in annual aid from Washington, its army is equipped by the US and joint exercises are being held with the US armed forces. This could not have happened without the peace process and peace treaty with Israel.

In a similar fusion, Jordan used the peace process with Israel in order to erase the residues of its conduct during the Gulf War. Israel, in the same vein, endorsed the sale of F-16 fighter planes to the Jordanian Air Force once the peace treaty was signed.

The Israeli-Syrian peace process has not been completed, but in its prime it was universally assumed that Assad was more interested in peace with Washington than with Jerusalem.

FOR a time this was also true of the Israeli-Palestinian track. By signing the Oslo Accord, Yasser Arafat was transformed in US eyes from the leader of a terrorist organization to a peacemaking leader on the White House lawn. Arafat's position in the eyes of the administration, Congress, and American public opinion, shifted with the flow of the peace process, but in 1997 two major changes occurred:

• The US was turned from a facilitator of Israeli-Palestinian relations to a partner and arbiter. This was most clearly manifested in the negotiations that led to the signing of the Hebron Agreement. As an arbiter, the US tends to take the middle ground.

• Later in 1997, as the implementation of the Hebron Agreement was suspended, Arafat was willing to react peacefully, realizing that he had been given a golden opportunity to build his relationship with the Clinton administration, while relations between the latter and the Netanyahu government deteriorated.

It was only in the aftermath of the Wye River conference that the full significance of these changes dawned on the Israeli Right. They saw the benefits likely to accrue to the Palestinian side as a result of Clinton's visit to Gaza.

If you see Israeli-Palestinian relations as a zero-sum game then Gaza's win is Jerusalem's loss. The return to active confrontation between Israelis and the president over the past two weeks served to exacerbate this view of things.

For President Clinton's visit to succeed, all three parties to the process must make their contribution:

It is essential for the Palestinians to use the occasion of the president's visit to send the clearest message possible that the hatchet is buried. The nullification of the offensive paragraphs in the Palestinian Charter is not a legal matter. It is a political symbol of the first order and it is in this spirit that the occasion should be managed.

On the Israeli side, it is essential to put an end to the grudging attitude to the whole process. Israel is the senior and more powerful party to this conflict, and it must behave as such.

For the US, it is important for the president to rise above the minor details of the negotiations. It is clearly important for the president's mission to succeed, but it is more important for all of us that the US's role as the orchestrator of this process should be brought back to the stature it deserves by dealing with the process's deeper, underlying issues.

The writer, a former Israeli ambassador to the US, is a professor at Tel Aviv University.

## Good morning, Mr. President

DAVID WEINBERG

As you wake up this fine Sunday morning in a beautiful room overlooking the sun-drenched, golden walls of Jerusalem's Old City, I ask you President Clinton to take a few minutes to contemplate history, to think about fate.

Before you plunge into the murky waters of Mideast peacemaking, take a step back and consider the moment. Just what does it mean to be the president of the United States, the leader of the free world, Israel's best friend on the globe, here in united Jerusalem on the eve of Hanukkah, just before Christmas, in Israel's fiftieth year - about to engineer "permanent status" talks between Israel and her neighbors?

It means, I think, that one has to think in providential, prophetic terms. In this holy city you are challenged to fathom the processes at work behind the curtain of current affairs; to discern mystic movement, the divine drama if you will, at play; to understand the State of Israel and its travails in grand historical terms.

Remember this: history knows no parallel to the prophecies of the Bible, which foretold of Jacob and Joseph's exile, of the break-up of a people into a thousand pieces across the world, to every culture and civilization - yet destined not to assimilate, but to return. What you are witness to is a metaphysical union spanning centuries,

between a people, their God, and a land - defying all odds.

And thus the establishment, survival and blooming of Israel into a thriving democracy is more than a political or secular event in Jewish, or indeed in global, consciousness. Israel stands as validation of the tenaciousness of faith.

This belief in the power of human will, animated by ancient faith, explains much about Israel, even today. It explains why we sometimes cling to forlorn hilltops and old-fashioned principles, stubbornly refusing to recognize the rational calculations of diplomatic cost and benefit - calculations politely impressed on us by well-meaning allies.

It explains why those who consider national politics and international relations underestimate or misjudge us. They fail to understand that Israel is guided by an astral calculus that is not always perceptible, a reckoning that blurs the line between aspirations and reality.

You, Mr. President, are an integral part of this otherworldly reckoning. You represent the country that, more than any other, has championed liberty and religious freedom the globe over.

IT IS specifically because of the close moral bonds between us,

that many Israelis are uncomfortable with your trip to Gaza tomorrow. The visit, and the honor to Yasser Arafat it suggests, perhaps are an inevitable outcome of the Oslo process and Wye accord, as is the establishment of a Palestinian state. We know that, well, you're doing your job as Mideast mediator.

But what shakes us is the intrusion by Yasser Arafat, as it were, on our relationship with you. We're uncomfortable sharing America with the Palestinians. It is hard for us to swallow the diplomatic pageantry you're accepting by going to Gaza - an honor guard of men who not so long ago were terrorizing us and tomorrow threaten to fire on us again.

The respectability of it all irks us even though the end-goal of the trip - pushing the process forward - is to our mutual advantage.

The parity implied by the even-handed scheduling of your visit also is hard to accept. A day-and-a-half here, equal time there. As if there was moral symmetry in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As if we shared the same heroes - people like, say, Saddam Hussein. As if both sides were taking equal risks for peace.

So, as you make your diplomatic rounds brokering peace, consider the limits of even-handedness. Balance with Arafat's chicanery, as you must - but keep the moral, prophetic perspective in mind.

## Welcome to Israel

DANIEL BLOCH

President Bill Clinton, you are a most welcome guest in Israel. The vast majority of Israelis, both Jew and Arab, extend you a warm hand. Don't pay attention to the small minority of extremists and some insignificant Likud politicians, even if they hold by default the title of cabinet minister. They hardly represent anyone.

We know that you are one of the friendliest presidents towards Israel who has ever sat in the White House, following the tradition of presidents Truman and Johnson. We appreciate your efforts and skills in advancing the peace process because the vast majority of Israelis support it, want to reach a comprehensive peace with all our neighbors and understand that there is no viable peace without an independent Palestinian state and substantial territorial compromise on all fronts.

Unfortunately, this majority is not reflected in the personal and political composition of the current government or in its parliamentary coalition. And the prime minister lacks the leadership qualities of courage and determination needed to move the government in the direction of full implementation of its obligations, even this necessitates new elections.

This might change very soon, because the current government cannot survive for very long. We will probably have new elections, and sooner rather than later. Nobody can bet with any certainty now on who will be the next prime minister, but we can definitely predict that the next coalition will be considerably different from the current one. It will be a peace-oriented coalition, dedicated to continuing the peace process based on the Oslo Accords and on the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin.

Officially, you will meet more opponents of the peace process than its supporters. But do not let this mislead you as to the true political mood that prevails in our country. You will not have the chance to talk personally with some of the people who might lead us after the coming elections, Dan Meridor or Amnon Shahak, for example.

We also realize that while you are visiting our area, your mind is elsewhere, on Capitol Hill.

Like the rest of the world, we stand amazed at the cynicism and stupidity of the Republicans who continue with their political impeachment process, against the will of the majority of the American people, in a case that in every other nation would interest only the yellowest of tabloids.

We can assure you the sympathy of our people and, if you wish, an audience can be arranged with Rabbi Kadoury, who will present you with anti-impeachment emulate and a specially blessed bottle of olive oil.

THE summit you are convening here will bring together three national leaders under siege, each one facing problems of a different nature.

Your crisis is the easiest, relatively speaking. You will survive, even in the worst-case scenario. You will be in the White House until January 2001, but you might encounter by that time different Middle Eastern leaders than the two you are meeting today.

Of these, Yasser Arafat is in the worst situation, because he has to struggle with internal political and physical survival while simultaneously confronting his external problems with Israel's government, which is looking for every excuse to avoid fulfilling its commitments. If Arafat fails, we might get in his stead a Hamas leader, who will return the region to the dark days that preceded Oslo and Madrid.

You, President Clinton, can bring both these leaders to face reality and to understand that their only chance for survival lies in their carrying out their agreements, both in writing and in spirit. Benjamin Netanyahu has to show some goodwill and release some of the political prisoners, and Arafat has to put an end to the recent eruptions of violence.

You can overcome the resistance of the two leaders by using the opportunity of your public appearances to speak directly to the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Your peace message won't fall on deaf ears. Use the good offices of President Ezer Weizman to promote peace and to bring the Israeli government to its senses.

At this juncture he reflects the mood of the silent majority more than anyone else. Use this opportunity, because everybody wants you to succeed in your mission.

And so may you come in peace, strengthen the peace and return home safely.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MONEY FOR SURVIVORS

Sir, - Charles Krauthammer, in "Stop the Holocaust treasure hunt" (December 7), insists it should be beneath the dignity of Jews to seek Holocaust-related financial compensation.

Does he believe, then, that it is more dignified for Holocaust survivors around the world to live out their final years in poverty? That thousands should be alone, with only their terrifying memories for company, because they cannot afford the rent at senior citizens' residences?

That fragile individuals who somehow managed to live through the most unspeakable horrors should now quietly manage without desperately-needed medication, psychological care, social assistance or physical help at home - because it's not nice to ask for money that was stolen from Jews to begin with?

There are some 900,000 Holocaust survivors around the world today, with the greatest concentration - more than 300,000 - living in Israel. While some of them have "made it" financially, a far greater number requires finan-

cial assistance just to cover the basic needs of old age.

In Israel alone, there are thousands of survivors living below the poverty line. Most survivors in eastern Europe have never received any kind of reparations or compensation. And, ironically, the very public issue of Holocaust-related money can reawaken terrible, long-buried memories for many survivors - resulting in increased need for psychological assistance.

As the last generation that will be able to help Holocaust survivors, it is our responsibility to make sure that those who lost property in World War II are justly compensated, and that there is funding available to ensure proper care for every single survivor in need. The world turned its back on these people more than half a century ago. We must never let it happen again.

AMB. (RET.) BENJAMIN NAVON  
Chairman of the  
Executive Committee,  
AMCHA.

Jerusalem.

### HUGGING MURDERERS

Sir, - In 1973 Yasser Arafat and his deputy Abu Iyad sat in Arafat's headquarters in Beirut and via radio transmission supervised an operation of their agents in Khartoum, Sudan. The operation was to seize and mercilessly kill three diplomats - US ambassador Cleo Noel, US charge d'affaires George Curtis Moore, and Belgian charge d'affaires Guy Eid.

Now an incumbent US secretary of state literally embraces, with hugs and kisses, the murderer of these US Department of State diplomats.

One cannot seriously expect Madame Albright to be perturbed about other Americans who fell victim to Arafat's PLO - such as Leon Klinghoffer, passenger on the Achille Lauro who was shot and thrown overboard in his wheelchair, and whose murderer now lives free in Gaza.

However, might she not reasonably be expected to have some concern about the murder of Noel and Moore, high-ranking members of the US Department of State that she now heads?

PJ BERLYN  
Zichron Ya'akov.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 13, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that 17 young Jews who demonstrated and rioted to protest the government's immigration policies and the hunt for tourists who overstayed their visas were charged in the courts and released on bail. Vaad Leumi, the Council of the Palestine Jewish community denounced this demonstration as a wild and irresponsible outburst.

50 years ago: On December 13, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that it was prepared to negotiate an armistice and peace. Government circles were reticent about the composition of the newly formed Palestine Conciliation Commission. The US and France were regarded as friendly, but Turkey's attitude was uncertain.

25 years ago: On December

13, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that eight Hebronites, including a policeman, were wounded in a grenade attack. The assault marked accelerated terrorist activity in different parts of the West Bank where widespread subversive elements were organizing support for the PLO.

Alexander Zivelli





French bisque-headed bebe doll (\$20,000-\$30,000 at Sotheby's New York)

## Beautiful dolls

### AT THE AUCTIONS

A large number of French and German 19th-century bisque-headed dolls are being offered at Sotheby's New York this Friday. Some are in period fashion costumes and many are beautifully made up with eye shadow. Most have glass eyes and perfect eyelashes. Prices range from \$700 to around \$5,000 and a lot more for the rarer items.

Bisque dolls were still widely available when I was a boy (and can still be found in Australian country shops; I wonder if their proprietors are aware of their value). I never played with them but I was fascinated by the beauty of those in my sister's room. Their smooth little faces and cherub mouths seemed to me the epitome of innocent beauty; I remember being struck by the intense gaze of their large glass eyes, luminous under perfectly arched eyebrows. Their hair was often implanted in cork. A French blonde in a red riding hood in this sale, signed by A. Thuillier, has an estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000.

This carousel sale is full of oddities, from Bette Midler's Dolores del Lago mermaid costume (\$4,000-\$6,000) to one of Elvis Presley's acoustic guitars (\$20,000-\$30,000). Autographed photos of Elvis, the young Frank Sinatra, the Beatles in white. Pepper uniforms and even a check signed by Marilyn Monroe are on offer. On the controversial cover of an album that was understandably withdrawn, dismembered dolls and animal body parts are held by the Beatles dressed in white coats. Mounted in a lucite stand, the cover is expected to bring at least \$1,500. Ugh.

This sale follows a Sotheby's auction of antique toys from the

collection of Carol F. Andersen which took place in New York yesterday. Many of the marvelous lots were clockwork driven figurines from the 19th and early 20th centuries. French, American and a few Japanese lots were a reminder that what were once modest purchases for the kids are now valuable collector's items. One lot valued at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 was a 1925 clockwork Citroen open tourer with Santa Claus at the wheel and a Christmas tree protruding from the dicky seat.

MOST AUCTIONS are an education, giving us an inside look at rarely seen aspects of other cultures, not to mention insights into the lifestyles of the collectors.

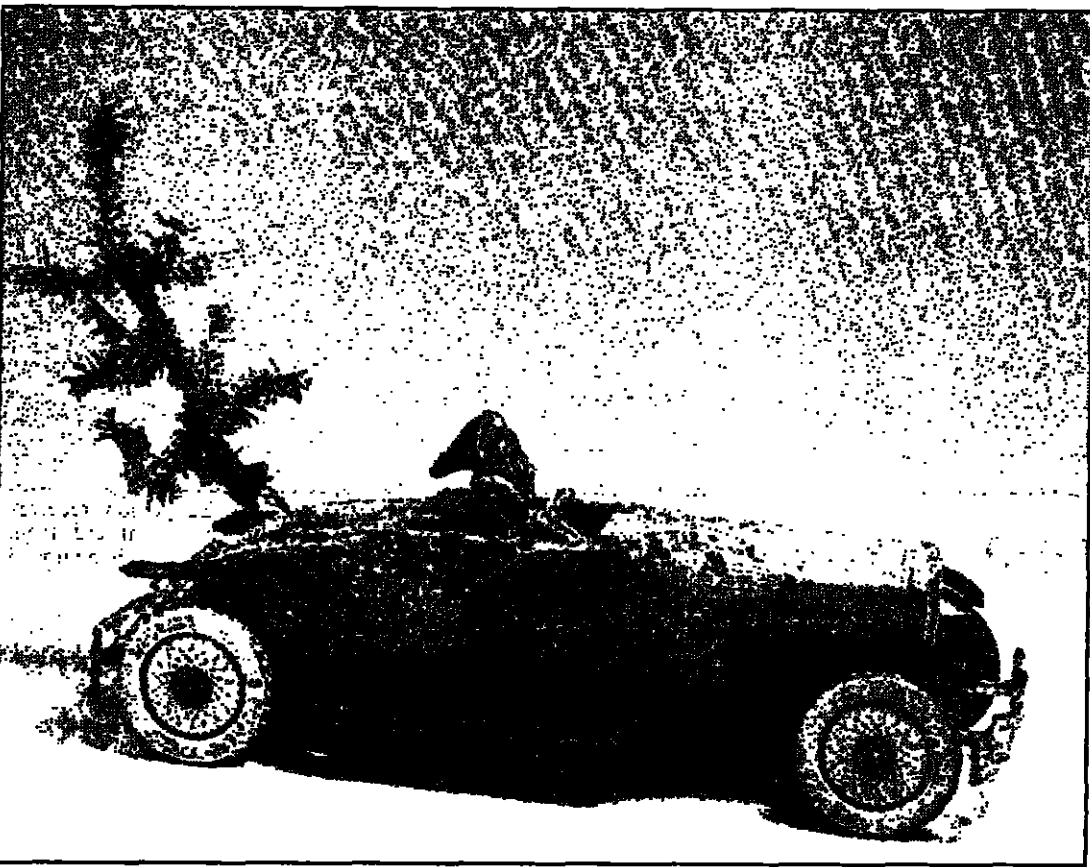
Take Sotheby's sale of American Indian Art in New York earlier this month. The cultures and artifacts of many different Indian nations were represented, from the Iroquois of the East and the Plains Indians to those of the southwest. There are shamanist artifacts from the northern Aleut cultures as well. Equally fascinating and especially charming are the Christian *bulto* figurines and *retablo* icons carved and painted by New Mexican cultures.

The visual richness of these cultures is as powerful as it is joyous. It leads one to recall that these Indian nations, despite their lack of a technology they didn't need, were far more cultivated and talented than the greedy cattle barons and hungry immigrants who displaced them.

Many of the lots in this sale were from the Santa Fe home of Linda and Stanley Marcus, the marketing genius who created America's leading up-market department stores in the West and South, hiring the best architects to build them and filling them with art. Stanley Marcus brought style and taste to Texas millionaires. Linda Marcus was an anthropologist with a special



La Sagrada Familia (The Holy Family), a late classic New Mexican polychromed wood bulto from the Marcus Collection (\$20,000-\$30,000 at Sotheby's New York)



A 1925 clockwork Citroen with Santa Claus and a Christmas tree, which was expected to bring at least \$2,000 at Sotheby's New York yesterday.

feeling for textiles; their second home in Santa Fe was hung with superb Navaho blankets and rugs.

Now in their 90s, the Marcuses are giving up their Santa Fe home, the one with all these brilliant painted sculptures and textiles and Great Plains costumes

(some views of the glorious wooden rooms are reprinted in the catalog). How they can bear to part with such wonderful objects after a lifetime of collecting (Stanley has been collecting for 75 years!) is beyond me, but I have no doubt that their principal

home in Dallas is also replete with treasures. Stanley Marcus has served as chairman of the Dallas Museum and helped turn it into a national institution.

The catalog to this show will prove invaluable to collectors in this field.

## Visit the Wall on the Net

Internet users around the globe can virtually "be" at the Western Wall in Jerusalem by clicking their computer mouse - although they can't be halachically counted into a quorum of worshippers there.

Virtual Jerusalem's new Kotel Kam zoom camera lets people focus on what's happening at Jud-

alism's holiest site - any time of the day or night, 365 days a year. The patented technology, produced by Perceptual Robotics near Chicago, was previously used to show action at the Wimbledon and US Open Tennis Championships on the Web.

Scenes at the Wall can be magnified up to 12 times (this is enough to read a license plate on a police car in the area). In addition, users can also click on an image, copy it and send it on - forwarding a living postcard by e-mail to a friend or relative. (The inauguration of the service was temporarily delayed last week after someone accidentally broke a camera part.)

For the past two years, users of the VJ Web site have been able to send a prayer or see the Wall with a stationary Kotel Kam, but this did not allow zooming in or panning from side to side. But now the new camera system, installed outside a private apartment and equipped with a motor, moves about at the user's will. It enables individuals to notify friends and family in advance when they will be at the Wall so they can actually see them, or even "participate" in a bar mitzva at the site while half a world away.

The service is free for those who register directly at [www.kotelkam.com](http://www.kotelkam.com) or indirectly via VJ's site at [www.virtual-jerusalem.com](http://www.virtual-jerusalem.com). The only prerequisite is providing some information about yourself (but there is nothing to prevent you from listing 1880 as your year of birth and leaving out your income) and getting a user name and password.

It takes 10 seconds to download each picture, says VJ operations director Mike Jacobs. While all users can't see the exact photo angle they want simultaneously, the system groups together all those seeking the same spot and shows it to them at the same time; the queue for the image you want is short. Users can view the prayers, celebrations and special ceremonies taking place on any one day, but there is no provision for sound.

### MONEY FOR SCIENCE

Things are looking up for researchers needing funds for their scientific work. National Science Foundation (NSF) grants for 1998 totaled NIS 143 million - 20% more in real terms than the 1997 figure.

Prof. Ya'acov Ziv, NSF chairman and president of the Israel Academy of Sciences, says this is quite an achievement, since the foundation had an annual budget of only NIS 1.5 million (in 1998 terms) when it started 26 years ago.

The Council for Higher Education's planning and budgeting committee covers 95% of the foundation's allocations, and researchers in all fields of science may apply. This year nearly NIS 60 million was handed out for new projects, including the purchase of equipment. The amount given for small research equipment (up to NIS 126,000) doubled this year to NIS 5.8 million and over NIS 10 million went for large research equipment. All this makes the NSF the central source of funding for competitive Israeli

scientific research.

Excellence is the main criterion for winning a grant, and an international judging committee of experts objectively chooses the winners. The number of immigrant scientists has risen, showing that they are becoming well integrated into the scientific system here, Ziv says.

### NEW WORLDS

But despite the 20% growth in grants, the NSF was still able to accept only one-third of the applications.

The NSF wants to increase the size of the grants, which currently are NIS 168,000 for the exact sciences and NIS 190,000 for the life sciences. In the West, the average grant is three times as big.

### GOURMET MICROWAVE

It may soon be possible to produce gourmet meals with unbelievable speed. By combining a high-speed airflow system with microwaves, a new oven roasts chickens in four minutes, does vegetables in just 100 seconds and browns a 500-gram prime steak to perfection in little over three minutes. And all this with energy consumption a third that of a normal oven. Behind this kitchen revolution is the world's first turbo-driven domestic oven.

Its designer, TurboChef of Dallas, Texas, says that it cooks food 10 to 15 times faster than normal ovens and three to five times as fast as a microwave. *New Scientist* reports. TurboChef already produces a commercial version, and a domestic oven will be launched next year by Maytag of Newton, Iowa.

To cook steak, for example, the turbo-oven first sears the meat with a high-velocity blast of air, mimicking a very hot grill. Next, microwaves cook the steak inside, as if it had been moved lower in the grill. Then a jet of air browns the steak. The oven uses a blend of conventional heat and microwaves. Jets of air heated to up to 260 degrees Celsius blast down from the roof of the oven towards each food item at high velocity. It surrounds the food in a shroud of hot air, says Des Hague, head of the team developing the oven. At the base of the oven, the wave of air is sucked around the food. This shrouding of the food in heat overcomes the usual escape of warm air away from the food to cooler parts of the oven.

With the turbo system, there's nowhere for the heat to go except in the food, says Hague. The force of the jet of air prevents a cool boundary layer of air forming around the food, which slows cooking in conventional ovens. At the same time, the food is heated from below with microwaves.

The combined assault cooks food from the outside and inside simultaneously.

### ON CALL ABROAD

Telephone subscribers who can't bear to part with their cell phones when abroad can now get the same phone number when they travel outside the country. The new "One World, One Number" service allows callers to reach subscribers wherever they are; they won't even suspect that the person is abroad.

A special code is needed, however, to reach the subscriber abroad and the phone owner can filter calls by limiting those he gives the code to. If a person calls the number without keying in the code, he will be transferred to the voice mailbox. Telephone users who take advantage of the service have to pay for calls transferred from Israel, and the caller pays the regular domestic rate. There is no monthly fee for the service.

## Oil giants are on a slippery slope

### Earthly Concerns



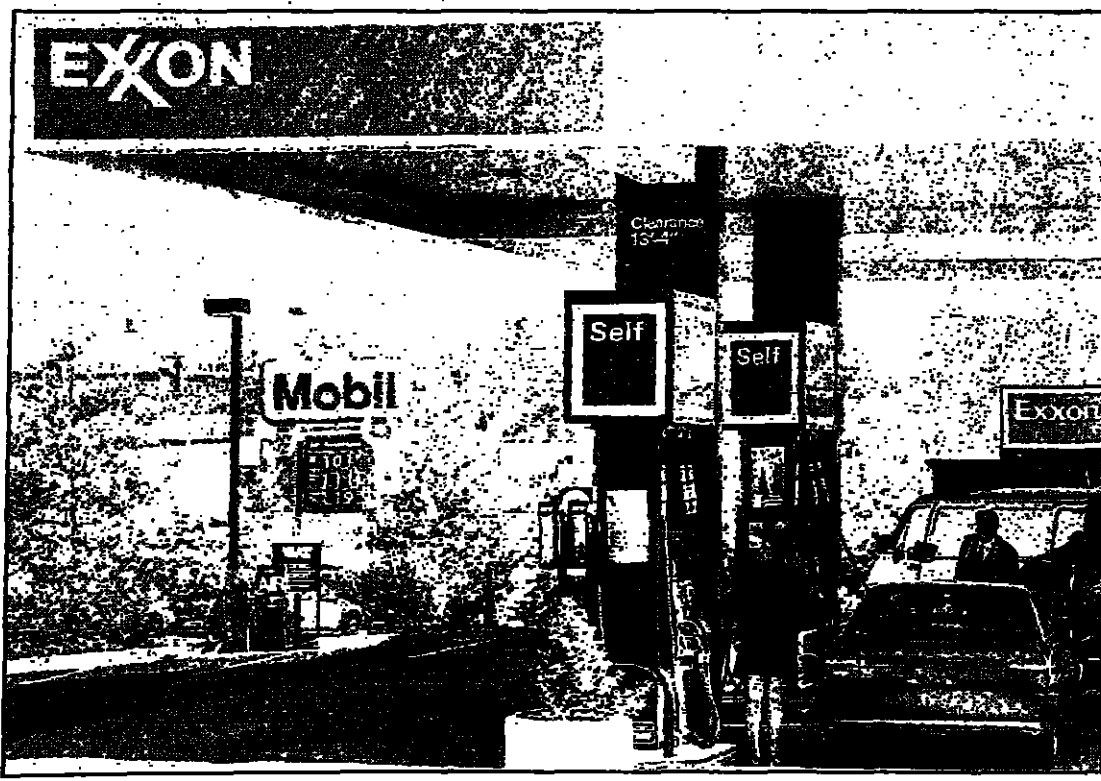
By D'vora Ben Shaul

The recently announced \$76 billion merger between US oil giants Exxon and Mobil may be one more indication that the oil industry is entering a geriatric phase in which slow growth and low prices are forcing companies to cut costs ruthlessly to survive.

In fact, the giant oil companies may have to do more than merge if they want to keep up with the changes in the world's energy economy. World oil use is growing at only 1.4 percent per year, oil prices are down, and global warming is putting the squeeze on the industry.

As more countries diversify their energy supplies, oil prices have fallen to less than \$12 per barrel, down 80% since the early 1980s. Despite prodigious exploration efforts, known oil resources have expanded only marginally in the last quarter-century. Eighty percent of the oil produced today comes from fields discovered before 1973.

Recent studies by economists from the American Fuel Board found that remaining oil resources are so limited that world production will peak within the next 10 to



Exxon and Mobil gas stations, side by side: Oil companies would be well-advised to look at alternative energy sources. (AP)

20 years.

And a new generation of advanced electronics and synthetic materials could quickly usher in a decentralized solar-hydrogen energy system in the early decades of the new century, according to recent assessments by the Worldwatch Institute, a Washington-based environmental think-tank.

Meanwhile, the energy industries with the highest growth rates

are wind and solar power. Since 1990, the global solar-energy industry has grown at 16% per year and the wind-power industry at 25% annually - growth rates the oil industry hasn't known for decades.

Although these newer energy sources fill relatively small niche markets today, as oil did at the turn of the century, when it was used primarily for lighting, double-digit growth rates will most likely soon

turn them into major investment opportunities.

The wind-power industry has created 20,000 new jobs in the past five years alone, a dramatic contrast to the 9,000 jobs that will be lost as a result of the merger of Exxon and Mobil.

In the last year alone, leading automakers, including Daimler-Benz, General Motors and Toyota, have announced plans for a new generation of fuel-cell cars that

could be run on ethanol, natural gas, or hydrogen, rather than oil. As such technologies begin to take hold a decade or so from now, oil demand could begin to shrink dramatically.

The prospect that global warming could force the world away from oil has led some oil companies to diversify their energy portfolios.

In a dramatic statement last year, John Browne, chairman of British Petroleum (which this year announced plans to merge with the US company Amoco), said that his company had accepted the scientific evidence of climatic changes and would add to its existing investments in solar energy. Royal Dutch Shell later announced plans to invest \$500 million in renewable energy.

Such moves have opened a transatlantic environmental divide in the oil industry, one that may be deepened by the merger of Exxon and Mobil. Both companies have actively questioned the science of climate change, and have lobbied the US Senate not to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, in which states promised to curb emissions of greenhouse gases.

This policy of denial may blind the merged company to changes in the energy marketplace. In fact, Exxon and Mobil both walked away from major solar investments in the 1980s, a contrast to the recent moves of BP and Shell.

The risk facing oil giants is that they will be so focused on cost-effectively exploiting remaining oil reserves in remote corners of the world that they will miss the far larger and more lucrative energy investment opportunities around the corner.

### A Message from our Ancestor (141 B.C.E.)

Simon replied: "We have neither taken other men's land, nor have we conquered anything that belongs to others. Rather, we have taken our ancestral heritage which had been unjustly conquered by our enemies on different occasions. Now we, seizing our opportunity, hold fast to the inheritance of our fathers."

1 Maccabees, 15:33

Happy Hanukka!

Women in Green

### Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority

Notice to Hikers and Travel Agents

Due to the visit of the President of the United States and Mrs. Bill Clinton the Masada National Park will be closed to visitors on Tuesday, December 15, 1998 (all day)

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Any change in plans will be announced in the media.

Aharon Vardi, Director-General of the Authority



# How Britain's royals lost their privacy

By BARRY DAVIS

Anglophiles will love Channel 8's look at relations between the British royal family and the media in *Royals and Reptiles* (parts 1 and 2 tomorrow 9 p.m., part 3 the following week at the same time).

It seems that the ongoing saga between the press and those close to, and on, the British throne began in the early days of World War II. A beleaguered British nation would be treated to newsreel shots of King George VI and his wife – the present queen mother – paying brief, if poignant, visits to parts of blitzed London flattened by the previous night's bombing, courtesy of the German air force. This, in fact, was a media ploy to boost the British people's morale by showing that their beloved sovereign was actually concerned with the welfare of his people.

In the 1990s – when exhaustive paparazzi coverage of practically every move made by a royal, down to the color and texture of the late Princess Diana's makeup – it seems quaint and almost surreal that a nation should have regarded its sovereign with such reverence.

Soon after the war, the public were shown footage of the king and queen and their two daughters – the present queen and Princess Margaret – strolling calmly through the gardens at Buckingham Palace, just like "any normal family," although there probably weren't too many "normal families" at the time with several acres of sprawling lawns at their personal disposal.

But it was the very decision to allow the British nation a glimpse of life at the sequestered top that set the whole paparazzi circus off. In

the early days every frame of every newsreel of the beloved royal family was vetted by the palace's press officer – the formidable, no-nonsense Commander Richard Callwell, who was sarcastically dubbed "Sunshine" by the press for his total lack of good humor. But the sands of change were soon to make inroads into the bastion of the dying British empire.

The first time TV provided mass coverage of a royal event was Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. Prior to the event there was much toing and froing between the media and the powers-that-be until the BBC was finally granted permission to cover the ceremony. Ironically, it was the young queen who ultimately tipped the scales in favor of media coverage by reminding a reluctant prime minister Winston Churchill that she was the one about to be crowned, not the British government.

It was a footnote to the coronation which set the whole tabloid bandwagon rolling – and it has been scandal-mongering ever since.

*Sunday Mirror* royal court correspondent of the time, Audrey Whiting, recounts how she noticed Princess Margaret showing affection to a young army officer. She hurried back to her office to tell her editor that she had the "real story" behind the coronation. But it transpired that the dashing officer in question – Grp. Capt. Peter Townsend – was a divorcee. Royals are prohibited from marrying divorcees, and although it seems hard to believe in these days of topless pictures of Sarah Ferguson splashed all over the tabloids, the editor refused to use the story, arguing that it would "spoil the queen's day."

Editorial prudence was also exercised in the 1960s when *Daily Express* photographer Ken Lennox took a photograph of the queen at the very moment a strong gust of wind lifted the hem of her skirt, displaying royal lingerie to Lennox's prying lens. The wily queen had, evidently, observed the photographer's quick reaction and a phone call was made by a palace official to the newspaper's editor. Even before the film was out of the developing fluid, Lennox was instructed not to use the shot and to dispatch the developed reel to the editor in London forthwith. Lennox complied unquestioningly.

However, from then on the gloves were off, and the media began to adopt an increasingly invasive stance. Long-range photographs of Princess Margaret, looking patently unglamorous in a shapeless swimming costume, were published. The early 1960s satirical TV show, *That Was The Week That Was*, and the always controversial *Private Eye* fortnightly magazine, frequently poked fun at the royal family.

The documentary questions the power of the media, and how much of a role it played in actually creating, rather than merely reporting, events. How much, for instance, was Prince Charles's decision to marry Lady Diana a result of media pressure? And to what extent did the press influence Charles and Diana's ultimate decision to divorce 15 years later?

The first part of the three-part series ends with shots of a newly betrothed Lady Di hounded by dozens of press photographers. Once Diana appeared on the scene, ventures the documentary, "the royal family was changed forever."



The first time TV provided mass coverage of a royal event was Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953.

(File photo)

## JSO's holiday delights

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Every year the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-ISA celebrates the season in a grand festival of choral delights.

The Liturgical Festival is a popular tradition almost 20 years old, initiated by Gary Bertini. What began as a series of three or four festive, orchestral concerts has grown in recent years into a larger festival with numerous diverse events focusing on liturgical music based on Christian, Jewish and Moslem traditions.

The main focus this year will be on five major orchestral concerts featuring rare choral pieces.

Gounod's *Missa St. Cecilia* is coupled with Mozart's *Coronation Mass* on December 17, and Faure's *Requiem* will be performed with Schubert's popular *Mass in E flat* major on December 22.

Visiting choirs from Germany and Austria as well as soloists from all over the world will join the JSO in these and the other concerts.

Gerhard Schmidt-Gaden will lead his Toltz Boys' Choir in a program of two unfamiliar Haydn masses, the *Holy Mass* and the *Creation Mass*, with the orchestra on January 6, as well as in an *a cappella* program of Bach motets on January 3 and 4.

David Shalom, JSO music direc-

tor, will conduct his orchestra in one of the most powerful and penetrating works of art written in this century, Britten's *War Requiem* – more a desperate call for peace than a prayer for the dead – on January 2.

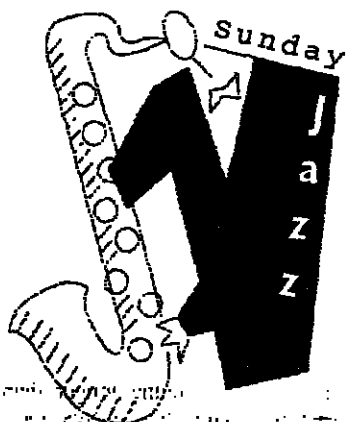
Between these sacred-music concerts comes a very special event on December 28 in which the JSO celebrates its 60th anniversary with a grand program.

The so-called liturgical part of the concert will feature Beethoven's monumental Ninth Symphony with the very popular "Ode to Joy" at its conclusion. Also on the program will be the oft-performed Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola by Mozart.

It will follow the world premiere of the Viola Concerto by Jerusalem composer Yoram Leif played by Tabea Zimmermann.

The festival also features a variety of events ranging from *a cappella* programs to organ recitals. These include the Soul Children of Chicago, a unique children's choir singing gospel (January 5 and 7); and a program of Moslem traditional music coupled with an always welcome concert by leading world music ensemble, Bustan Avraham, on December 19.

All Liturgical events take place in Jerusalem with a few select concerts also in Tel Aviv.



By Barry Davis

As the pioneering oriental-occidental fusion band in this part of the world, one would expect a new East-West Ensemble CD to break fresh musical ground. Indeed,

## The dark avenger of Israeli pop

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

Israeli musicians, especially those of the male variety, tend to shy away from showing their vulnerable side. Call it a macho

LE'AN NE'ELAM  
BARUCH FRIEDLAND?  
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(Ziklido/Ed Artzi)

thing, but even in their most personal works, a lot of singers here refuse to dig deep into their psyches and show the world what lies within.

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IMAGINARY RITUAL  
East-West Ensemble  
(Jazz Ear)

*Imaginary Ritual* is probably the most oriental of the band's three albums released to date, incorporating a diverse range of sounds and instruments culled from cultures and countries as geographically disparate as Persia and India and added to the ubiquitous cello and flute.

But, true to *Imaginary Ritual's* eastern spirit, even these essentially western instruments are mostly used to augment and embellish the oriental sound rather than to forge a cross-cul-

tural meeting point.

Even track three – a Persian piece called "Aziz Ioon" which is ostensibly fronted by the dominant sounds of the flute and cello – is more eastern than western in nature. The flute opens the piece in something akin to classical western music, and is joined by the cello to produce a chamber-music sound.

But the theme is soon infiltrated by the insistent percussion of a Persian *zab* and, as the track progresses, the cello gradually adopts a more oriental form and the flute only just about hangs on to its western identity. Rather than detracting from the intrinsic nature of the occidental instruments, this serves to generate a

musical osmosis of considerable intensity.

Tension – in the positive sense of the word – is a central theme of all of *Imaginary Ritual's* six tracks. The piercing Persian ney-flute overtone sets the tone right from the first track, and the pace is picked up and maintained by Yuval Mesner's driving cello bowing and Yakov Lev's *darbuka* drumming. Band leader – and CD arranger and producer – Yisrael Borochov, augments it all with an imaginative and meandering bass-guitar anchor.

The tension is particularly evident in "Imaginary Ritual on the Ethiopian-Persian Border" – Track 4 – with Gil Ron's chilling

lead muezzin-like vocals punctuated by foreboding percussion and back-up vocals which appear to hail from a mixture of Native American and Mayan origins.

The atmosphere is somewhat lightened by the following, more commercial-sounding track, "Daud's Celebration" – although there is a palpable sense of unrest here too. The sleeve notes describe Daud as "a friend who is a meeting point for very different people... but not with the intention of rejoicing or celebrating with him."

All in all, *Imaginary Ritual* is a powerful CD which reaffirms Borochov and his group as among the leaders of the local ethnic genre.

## Rock Hall of Fame loses credibility

By ROBERT NISBURN

You had to feel sorry for Billy Joel last year when he was informed that he had been voted into Hollywood's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame – only to learn later in the day that the news report had been in error and that he had, in fact, been passed over by the voters.

But now you have to feel a tinge of sympathy for the hall itself. The news of Joel's election this month is the latest in a growing number of body blows to the hall's credibility. Though the organization should salute the most original and influential figures in rock history, it all too often opens its arms to artists whose credentials are primarily commercial. One reason is that the hall directors continue to encourage the induction of seven new members a year. That was a reasonable goal in the early days of the balloting, when the hall was trying to catch up with the many founders of the music. But no longer.

The membership has grown to 107 in just 14 years. Under hall rules, recording artists can't be listed on the ballot until 25 years after their first record. Sentimentality aside, there usually aren't more than three or four truly great artists among the nominees in even a good year.

Of the dozens of artists who first became eligible this year, only Bruce Springsteen commanded enough respect among the hall's committee of 1,000 or so executives, critics and musicians to win election.

That meant the selection committee had to reach back to artists, like Joel, who were passed over in previous years.

In two cases, the voters did so wisely. Curtis Mayfield and Paul McCartney, both of whom have been eligible since 1995, will be inducted along with Springsteen on March 15 in New York City.

But the remaining inductees are, to varying degrees, open to question. Do Del Shannon and Dusty Springfield really represent essential chapters in rock history? Of this year's deserving inductees, Bruce Springsteen's creative evolution can be traced by concentrating on

four of his studio collections: *Born to Run*, *Darkness on the Edge of Town*, *Nebraska* and *Tunnel of Love*.

Curtis Mayfield and Paul McCartney had already been inducted as members of groups – Mayfield with the Impressions in 1991, McCartney with the Beatles in 1988.

Mayfield is a superb singer, guitarist and songwriter who continues to record despite being paralyzed since a freak stage accident in 1990.

As for McCartney, though his post-Beatles albums didn't match the heights of John Lennon's *Plastic Ono Band* and *Imagine*, he has produced plenty of winning music since his Beatles days. McCartney's most satisfying album was *Band on the Run*, the 1973 collection that conveyed a self-assuredness reminiscent of the Beatles days.

NOW for the question marks: Billy Joel has had some 30 US Top 40 hits, but little other lasting impact on pop-rock tradition.

Yes, he has made some undeniably infectious recordings, but Joel is chiefly a derivative artist, rather than an important one.

Del Shannon was a quality rocker who is often overpraised because he happened to be doing creditable work during a period in rock (the early '60s) when the first wave of rockers was fading and the second hadn't yet arrived. Try *Greatest Hits*, a 20-song disc from Rhino.

You might wonder why Dusty Springfield wasn't elected to the Hall of Fame years ago. But Springfield seemed to be searching for most of her career for the right material or producer, sometimes both. It left her one step short of pop's top plateau, despite 1969's superb *Dusty in Memphis* and *The Very Best of Dusty Springfield*.

There's a bit of a parallel between The Staple Singers and Springfield in the sense that less is more. The best of the quartet's recordings on Star Records in the late '60s and early '70s combined gospel, blues, folk and rock elements in message songs that helped define an era.

(Los Angeles Times)

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# Women's journey aboard the 'plane of life'

A binational conference in Jerusalem on health issues affecting women proved a two-way learning process for the Americans and Israelis who attended, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich writes

In the beginning, feminists insisted that men and women were "just the same." Then, gradually, while they continued to demand equal rights and opportunities for women, they began to concede that the sexes were very different, emotionally as well as biologically.

The differences — and the many medical issues women face worldwide — were the subject of a recent conference on Promoting Women's Health Across Generations.

Sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Israel's Health Ministry, the opening of the high-level, two-day gathering, held at the Jerusalem Hilton, was attended by HHS Secretary Dr. Donna Shalala and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

A Christian, third-generation American of Lebanese origin, Shalala wowed her Israeli and American audience with an impressive speech full of quotations from the Bible, Talmud, Midrash and Yiddish jokes. She clearly knew what she was talking about, having been part of Hillary Clinton's task force on health reform that unfortunately got nowhere because of opposition from the medical establishment and other vested interests.

Fifty-seven years old, less than 1.4 meters tall but packed with enough energy to work 15-hour days, Shalala speaks Arabic, (learned from her father, James, a real-estate salesman who was a leader of Cleveland's Syrian-Lebanese community) and Parsi, picked up during a two-year Peace Corps stint in Iran. She taught political science at a college of the City University of New York and later served as president of CUNY's Hunter College.

"Prime Minister Golda Meir once

said: 'Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you're aboard, there's nothing you can do.' I will add a coda," Shalala said. "There's a lot we can do to make sure we reach old age — and, once 'on board,' have a comfortable, long and healthy flight. Our goal should be to protect women's health from the first day of life until the last."

And that was what the binational conference was dedicated to: discussions and practical suggestions aimed at improving women's health — as girls, as fertile and working women, and as seniors.

Quoting the talmudic adage, "When you teach your son, you teach your son's son," Shalala said it was "also true that when we teach our daughters, we teach our daughters' daughters. Part of building the future is focusing on prevention of disease and promoting healthy habits among the next generation."

Minister Matza recently became aware of the importance of women's health as a special, separate discipline and appointed Shaare Zedek Hospital deputy director-general and gynecologist Dr. Rachel Adatto-Levy as his unpaid adviser on women's health. Over a period of nine months, Adatto-Levy made several visits to the US to coordinate with her US counterparts, especially Dr. Susan Wood, acting deputy director of the Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health.

ONE might think that in a conference hosting American experts, Israel would be solely on the receiving end of advice.

But during the debates — which sadly received very little coverage in the Israeli media because of a poor promotion job by ministry

staffers — it became clear that this was a two-way learning process. While the US is more advanced in legislation designed to protect women's health, as well as in women's health activism and women's awareness of their bodies, Israel is considerably ahead in the field of universal national health insurance, life expectancy, immunization of babies and mandatory paid maternity leave.

In both countries, much remains to be done to protect women from violence, prevent unwanted pregnancy, help older women live out their days in good health and meaningful activity, cope with mental stress and illness and reduce danger in the workplace. Women live longer but are sicker, while men die quicker, noted Prof. Mordechai Shani, director-general of Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, former (two-time) director-general of the Health Ministry and an expert in international health policy. "Until three years ago," he confessed to conference participants, "I had never thought of women's health as a policy issue — a very important global issue."

Shani explained that despite mounting pressures for cost containment in health systems, more

money should be focused on women, because of "their unique vulnerability to disease. They're living longer than ever, but they don't necessarily live better or healthier." Shani also pointed out that until recently, clinical research on the benefits of new medications and treatments were conducted almost solely on men.

spoke proudly of the law passed by Congress several years ago requiring that all federally funded medical research include women.

An Office of Research on Women's Health was established to ensure that the law was implemented. The Women's Health Initiative

seems to be negated by smoking," he said. "Lung cancer is three to five times more likely to occur in women smokers than men smokers, and the disease appears more often in its most deadly form."

The contraceptive pill also causes complications in women who smoke, especially those over 30," Shani added that women are at higher risk

attack during the following year," she said.

Women even have different heart attack symptoms, complaining more of neck and shoulder pain than the traditional "male" symptom of chest pain. As a result, doctors who still think younger women "can't have" heart attacks dismiss their symptoms, with dire consequences.

But, Legato stressed, when women get the same high-level treatment for heart disease as men, the outcome is as good, or better. Legato added that she was very worried about the rising smoking rate in young American women (in Israel too), largely a result of their belief that smoking reduces appetite and prevents weight gain.

In the working group discussion on occupational stress and women's health, Dr. Gwendolyn Keita, the director of the office of women's programs in Washington's American Psychological Association, painted a shocking picture of less-educated working women in many parts of the US.

She noted that many women in predominantly female clerical and other low-skilled jobs suffer from tremendous stress because of sexual harassment, rigid schedules that conflict with their family obligations, and workplace violence (especially in medical institutions). This stress has been proven to trigger physical ailments including peptic ulcers, hypertension, diabetes, depression, anxiety and coronary heart disease.

Adatto-Levy promised that a 30-member steering committee would meet monthly to implement recommendations made during the event, and added she hoped to see another binational conference a few years down the line to note progress in women's health in both countries.

As Shalala's "great rabbinical sage" once said: "Do not mistake talk for action."



Photo: G. Rabinovitch, Hershkovitz/Contrasto (left), Zeev Aronson

was set up in 1991 as a 15-year project costing over \$600 million; one of the largest clinical studies ever conducted, it involves 160,000 women aged 50 to 79 and will study ways to prevent death and disability from heart disease, stroke, cancer and complications of osteoporosis among postmenopausal women.

Efforts are also being made in the US to promote genetic research on breast and ovarian cancers and other women's diseases that are partially due to genetic mutations.

Shani disclosed that smoking affects women in additional ways that don't affect men. "Estrogen's protective advantage on the heart and blood vessels

of contracting osteoporosis, depression, diabetes and autoimmune diseases than men, and said strokes cause more deaths in women.

DR. Marianne Legato, director of the Partnership for Women's Health at Columbia University in New York and a leading expert in women's heart disease, noted that once women have their first heart attack, they are more than twice as likely to die during the few weeks of recovery as men. "More women than men will have a second heart

## 'Pine tree' margarine cuts cholesterol

By MAGGIE FOX

A new margarine made with a fat-blocking derivative from pine trees lowers blood cholesterol by an average of 14% in people who eat it, according to American researchers.

Men and women with borderline-high cholesterol who ate the spread regularly lowered both their total cholesterol and their so-called "bad" LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol, which clogs up arteries.

The spread, sold under the name Benecol in Finland, was launched in Portland, Oregon, last month.

Dr. Lowell Dale, of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and colleagues took part in the first US trials of Benecol, and said they found comparable effects to European trials — an overall 10% average lowering of cholesterol and a 14% reduction in LDL cholesterol.

Dale, who recently presented his team's findings at a meeting of the American Dietetic Association in Kansas City, said he tested 79 people

out of a total of 307 in trials across the country. He said the other teams had similar results.

Doctors advise people to lower their overall cholesterol to below 200, and some studies have found that a 1% reduction in cholesterol leads to a 2% reduction in the risk of death from heart attack or other heart disease.

Because Benecol is to be sold as a food supplement, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not become involved in any approval process. But the product's makers cannot claim any specific health benefits in marketing it, either.

Johnson & Johnson unit McNeil Consumer Products has negotiated worldwide marketing rights to Benecol, chief executive officer Brian Perkins said in a telephone interview.

"After introducing it locally in November," he said, "we will go national in January and then, come springtime in March, April, we will be launching a line of salad dressings."

McNeil plans to set up a manu-

facturing plant in Missouri next year.

BENECOL has been a best-seller in Finland, where it was produced from by-products of the logging industry.

Developed by Finnish food and chemicals group Raisio, it consists of plant stanol esters, which are naturally found in wood and vegetable oils such as corn oil and olive oil.

Raisio extracts the stanol esters from pine wood fiber used in paper production. They are usually washed away as a by-product of the pulp-making process. Perkins said McNeil will get the stanols from "a number of sources worldwide," including logs from South Carolina.

Plant stanol esters seem to block the transportation of cholesterol from the digestive tract to the liver.

"We know they compete with cholesterol in the intestine," Dale said. "Cholesterol is just excreted unabsorbed. The beauty of it also is the stanol is not absorbed either, so it does not end up in the system."

He said that so far, Benecol

seemed free of the side-effects that have dogged Procter & Gamble's Olean (olestra), a fat that is not absorbed by the body.

"We have not seen any diarrhea or other things. It is very well tolerated," Perkins said.

Dale said the volunteers who tested Benecol were asked specifically not to add extra exercise to their daily lives or to change their diets in any other way. But he said that to get the cholesterol-lowering effects, Benecol should be substituted for butter or margarine, not added.

Perkins sees a huge potential market. "There are close to 100 million Americans with elevated cholesterol. We feel we can provide a very effective and, frankly, enjoyable way for people to lower their cholesterol," he said.

"We don't expect every one of those people to get actively involved with Benecol, but we know 40 to 50 million people are doing something actively to lower their cholesterol — and the first thing these people do is change their diet." (Reuters)

## Old teeth can be good teeth

By NANCY ROSS-FLANNAGAN

People are living longer than ever, and that makes their teeth older as well.

Even if you've had good teeth all your life, your oral health habits need to change as you age, says Jonathan Ship, associate professor of dentistry at the University of Michigan.

Gum tissues tend to recede with age, exposing more tooth surface and larger areas between the teeth. The exposed root of the tooth is covered with cementum, a mineralized material that is less resistant to decay than tooth enamel.

"People with receding gums are not necessarily going to get more cavities, but they're at greater risk for tooth loss," says Ship.

Careful brushing and flossing become more important than ever, and special devices such as floss threaders and small brushes to clean between teeth may be necessary. Older people also may need to use fluoride rinses or have their dentists coat their teeth with fluoride varnishes to help prevent cavities.

Brushing and flossing may be the farthest thing from the mind of someone facing surgery for a hip or knee replacement. But good oral hygiene is especially important for people who have total joint replacements, says Jed Jacobson, another university dentistry expert.

A major cause of failure in joint replacements is infection, which can happen when bacteria travel to the site of the replacement from other parts of the body — including the mouth.

Jacobson says that patients planning to have a total joint replacement should make sure their dental health is good. Practicing good oral hygiene after the surgery is equally important, especially for the first two years.

To further reduce the risk of infection, dentists may advise some joint replacement patients to take antibiotics before certain procedures such as having a tooth pulled or oral surgery. However, this is a decision the dentist must make for each patient, taking into account the patient's general health and medical history, and the type of procedure being done.

LONGER life spans present challenges for older people and their dentists.

The percentage of older people without their natural teeth has dropped dramatically in the US — from 70% to 40% — over the last few decades.

But because more people than ever are living into their 80s and beyond, the actual number of older people without teeth has increased.

The longer a person lives without natural teeth, the greater the likelihood of bone loss in the ridge that runs under the gums. This problem is made worse by osteoporosis, a widespread condition of bone thinning especially prevalent among older women.

Bone loss under the gums can



Older folks are more likely to smile when they take extra-special care over their oral hygiene. (Debbi Cooper)

lead to a host of problems that interfere with the fit of dentures. Gum tissue can become soft and flabby, and the tongue can swell. Other problems like infection and mouth calluses result when people wear poorly fitting dentures for too long.

For these reasons, it's important that even people who have lost their natural teeth see their dentists once a year. The yearly visit also is a good time for the dentist to check for signs of oral cancer, which is more common in older people but can be treated effectively if caught early.

Elderly people who have dentures should remove them before going to sleep if they want good oral health. Yet many denture-wearers have never let their spouses see their toothless.

"If you understand that the underside of the denture is a great place for bacteria and yeast to grow, you'd want to get that denture out at night and give your mouth a rest," says Ship.

FINDING relief from dry mouth, oral irritation, taste changes or gum disease may be as simple as reviewing your medication list with your dentist.

Hundreds of common medicines — from antihistamines to hormones to heart drugs — can have effects on oral health and comfort, says dentistry Prof. John Gobetti.

"People with these problems go through all kinds of extensive testing to go along on dentist appointments, to get any special dental care instructions," (University of Michigan News Service)

"Some 450 to 600 medications, including many of the most commonly prescribed drugs, have oral side effects, ranging from dry mouth to mouth irritation and even enhanced gum disease."

Patients should be sure to tell their dentists about all the medicines they are taking, including herbal remedies and over-the-counter medications. In some cases, dentists can cooperate with a patient's physician to make medication changes that will relieve the problem.

When such changes are not possible, dentists can recommend other ways of finding relief and preventing further problems — chewing sugarless gum, letting sugarless hard candy dissolve in the mouth, or using artificial saliva products.

People with physical limitations or memory problems may need extra help in taking care of their teeth. Caregivers who notice that their charges are neglecting their oral hygiene should first try to figure out why, concludes Ship.

"Is it because they can't grip the toothbrush and need a special one with a larger handle? Do they need an electric toothbrush that will do the work for them? Do they lack the hand-eye coordination they need to floss their teeth?"

Mouth pain, diet changes and dry mouth can also affect older people's oral health. In some cases, caregivers may need to brush and floss their teeth for them.

It's also important for caregivers to go along on dentist appointments, to get any special dental care instructions. (University of Michigan News Service)

## Sleepy teens make sloppy pupils

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Israeli high-school pupils sleep 60 to 90 minutes less per night than their peers in 10 European countries, according to statistics from the World Health Organization and the Technion Sleep Lab in Haifa.

This may "prepare" them for coping with even less sleep during military service — but it could be one explanation for drowsy and aggressive drivers, and tenseness and impatience among adults as well, says Prof. Peretz Lavie, one of the country's leading sleep-medicine experts, who organized a recent symposium on the sleeping habits of teenagers.

European teenagers get an average of 8.5 hours' sleep, while their Israeli counterparts sleep only about seven. Lavie said that teenagers' sleep deficits can cause a drop in mental functioning in school, as well as behavior disturbances in and out of the classroom.

Lavie blamed Israeli kids' tendency to stay up very late, as well as "zero hour," the hated high-school schedule that often requires pupils to be in class by 7 a.m.

According to studies conducted here, pupils given an extra hour of sleep functioned much better in



Dreaming in class: Did she get enough sleep last night? (Andre Brummann)

school. Secular teenagers were found to spend school nights at pubs, discos, cinemas and friends' homes or taking part in chat groups on the computer. Religious boys tended to sleep even less, as they had to say morning prayers before classes start.

The 150 symposium participants, who included teachers, principals and Education Ministry officials, agreed that classes should be started later at least once a week, and school principals be given the power to decide on their own schedule for starting and end-

ing classes. However, for pupils who live in rural or outlying settlements and get to school via organized transportation, these arrangements would be more difficult to change, Lavie said.

IMPROVED BIOPSIES

An advanced digital mammography and needle biopsy machine, called the LORAD M-IV, has been installed at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem.

Hadassah said the equipment, which is not found in any other

Israeli hospital, allows extremely exact diagnosis and identification of a breast tumor, even at the earliest stages.

The conventional method of needle biopsy is usually painful and some women faint during the process. However, the LORAD technique frequently eliminates the need for exploratory surgery and can take tissue samples from a large area with only one insertion of the needle.

The LORAD M-IV machine was donated by Miriam and Naomi Hochstein.







# TOURISM

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RIDING ROUGHSHOD - New York Rangers right winger John MacLean slams Buffalo Sabres defenseman Darryl Shannon to the ice in first-period action. (Reuters)

## Sabres shut out Rangers 2-0; Red Wings edge Oilers



**BUFFALO (AP)** - Michael Peca's backhand broke a scoreless tie with 2:01 to play and Dominik Hasek added another shutout against New York as the Buffalo Sabres beat the Rangers 2-0 Friday night.

Peca averted what would have been a second scoreless tie between the teams this season. Vaclav Varada, who assisted on Peca's goal, scored an empty-netter with 15 seconds left.

Hasek stopped 10 shots, including a backhand by Todd Harvey in front with 2:40 left as he notched his fifth shutout this season and 38th of his NHL career. Hasek had a four-game shutout streak against the Rangers snapped in a 4-2 Sabres win on November 25.

**Red Wings 3, Oilers 2**  
Sergei Fedorov and Steve Yzerman both had a goal and an assist as the Red Wings won at home.

Vyacheslav Kozlov scored the other goal for the Red Wings, who are 8-1-1 in a 10-game stretch that began with a 6-2 victory November 18 at Edmonton.

Andrei Kovalenko scored both goals for the Oilers, 0-4-1 in their last five games.

**Flames 2, Lightning 1**  
Andrew Cassels and Cory Stillman each scored a goal and assisted the other as Calgary notched a road win.

Calgary rookie goaltender Jean-

Sebastien Giguere came in to replace injured starting goalie Tyler Moss with just 6:11 gone in the first and stopped 21 shots.

Alex Selivanov scored at 5:53 of the third period for Tampa Bay.

Maple Leafs 3, Blackhawks 2  
Glenn Healy, back in the NHL after his recall this week from the minors, made 28 saves to lead Toronto Maple Leafs to a road victory.

Healy, who had been recalled from the Chicago Wolves of the IHL, was called up only because backup goaltender Felix Potvin had walked out on the team because they had been having trouble trading him.

Todd Warner, Allyn McCauley and Mats Sundin scored as the Maple Leafs extended their unbeaten streak at the United Center to seven games (6-0-1).

Doug Gilmour and Daniel Cleary scored for Chicago.

**Stars 3, Canadiens 2**  
Jamie Langenbrunner's tie-breaking goal with 2:49 to play led Dallas to a home win.

Goals by Benoit Brunet and Jonas Hoglund over a 16-second span late in the second period had lifted the Canadiens into a 2-2 tie. But with overtime looming late in the third, Mike Modano worked the puck free to Langenbrunner, who skated in front of the net and beat Montreal goalie Jose Theodore for his fifth goal.

Montreal is winless in their last eight road games (0-7-1) and are 2-11-1 in their last 14 overall.

**Mighty Ducks 1, Capitals 0**  
Marty McInnis scored a power-play goal 3:46 into the game and Anaheim goaltender Guy Hebert made that stand as the Mighty

Ducks won at home. Hebert stopped 31 shots while recording his third shutout of the season and 19th of his career. McInnis knocked in a rebound after Washington goalie Olaf Kotzick blocked Paul Kariya's 55-foot backhand.

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Atlantic Division					
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New Jersey	16	7	3	35	78/44
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N.Y. Rangers	10	11	7	27	72/71
N.Y. Islanders	10	17	0	20	48/81
Northeast Division					
Toronto	16	10	2	34	86/80
Buffalo	14	5	5	33	69/44
Boston	12	7	6	30	66/47
Ottawa	13	9	3	29	77/62
Montreal	8	16	3	19	61/81
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Carolina	12	11	5	29	74/67
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Tampa Bay	7	18	2	16	59/101

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Nashville	10	14	2	22	60/78
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Vancouver	10	13	4	24	70/80
Calgary	10	15	2	22	73/78
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Phoenix	16	3	3	35	66/37
Anaheim	10	11	6	26	62/66
Los Angeles	7	17	3	17	57/77
San Jose	5	14	7	17	55/67

Thursday's results: Boston 3, Carolina 2; New Jersey 5, Philadelphia 4 (OT); Nashville 2, San Jose 1.

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MERCEDES-BENZ S320, 1998 model, black metallic, leather interior, all extras: sun roof, park-distance control, navigator, GSM phone, 1700 km, full export price DM 78,000 (FOB German port). Contact Michael Gerhardt Automobiles, Germany. Tel. 49-451-499-3851/2, Fax: 49-451-499-3853/4. In Israel Tel. 050-644-044. [19861]

#### FOR SALE (TOURIST OR DIPLOMAT)

MAT11986, Mitsubishi Pajero 3.5, V6 1998, manual, 36,000 km, original owner, 4x4, silver, 430000, all extras, as new. Tel. 09-958-0088, 09-958-2532, 052-464-316. [796246]

### VEHICLES

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#### LAND ROVER DISCOVERY, 1995, manual, 51,000 km. Like new. Fully loaded. Tel. 02-652-3735, 050-240-977. [21032]

#### MITSUBISHI SUPER LANCER, 1993, manual, 67,000 km., excellent condition, A/C, power steering, electric windows, full loaded. Tel. 02-652-3735, 050-240-977. [21034]

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### VEHICLES

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FORD PROBE, 1991 GT, manual, 2 door, \$4,900, black, very luxurious car, A/C, P/S, E/W, top condition, low km. Call Mark anytime. Tel. 03-527-0621, 050-717-981. [794159]

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MERCEDES 240, DIESEL, 1988, manual, red, full extras, \$4,900. Call Mark anytime. Tel. 03-527-0621, 050-717-981. [794159]

MITSUBISHI STARION, 1989, 2 doors, manual, 5 seats, air-conditioning, radio-cassette, very attractive car, \$4,900. Call Mark anytime. Tel. 050-717-981. [794159]

PONTIAC GRAND-AM, 1992, automatic, very luxurious, full extras, \$5,900. Call Mark anytime. Tel. 03-527-0621, 050-717-981. [794159]

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## Maccabi Tel Aviv hold leaders

By DEREK FATTAL

The 12th round of National League soccer action played this weekend saw table-toppers Hapoel Haifa held to a 1-1 draw before around 35,000 spectators at the National Stadium Ramat Gan by a gutsy Maccabi Tel Aviv.

### Hapoel Haifa 1

Liron Basis's 43rd-minute equalizer earned Hapoel Haifa a draw. Maccabi had taken the lead when Moshe Glan put the home side ahead after beating Hapoel's offside trap in the 36th minute.

Maccabi became only the second side this season to take a point on the league leaders, and they did it despite playing with 10 men for two-thirds of the game.

**Ironi Ashdod 4**  
**Hapoel Petah Tikva 1**  
This proved to be a miserable outing for Hapoel's reserve goalkeeper Eyal Abramov who was drafted to take the place of the injured Shai Hess.

In the 13th minute, Abramov brought Amir Turjman down in the box and although he was lucky to get away with just a yellow card, he was unable to stop Turjman's penalty kick.

Motti Kakkon leveled for Hapoel in the 27th minute with his 13th goal of the season, but that proved to be the Petah Tikva's solitary moment of joy.

Tur Balog put the Ashdodis back in the lead in the 40th minute, then just prior to the break Hapoel's Walid Badir was dismissed for an off-the-ball incident.

**Maccabi Haifa 1**  
**Zafririm Holon 1**  
Haifa were cheered off the pitch at the end of the first half and it was not until the 60th minute that they began to make life uncomfortable for the Holonis with some sustained goalmouth pressure.

The breakthrough came seven minutes from the end, when Holon's Nir Sohar was adjudged to have handled the ball in his area. Maccabi's Alon Mizrahi struck the penalty and scored a critical goal that takes the Haifaite into second place.

**Bnei Yehuda 0**  
**Betar Jerusalem 3**  
Around 25,000 spectators were on hand for the first fixture in the National Stadium's double-header program. The Jerusalemites won comfortably going two goals ahead prior to the interval through Ofer Shitrit and Nir Sivila.

Sivila grabbed a second, racing through the middle to beat Bnei Yehuda goalkeeper Shaul Smadja in the 82nd minute. Five minutes later Betar lost the services of Ranan Deri thanks to a red card awarded for a wild challenge on Yaron Avihel.

### Rishon LeZion 2

The Herzlians pulled off a Houdini-like escape act after being two goals down thanks to the exploits of Yair Simhon who scored in the 70th and 89th minutes.

### Maccabi Petah Tikva 3

**Maccabi Jaffa 1**

Petah Tikva's Idan Tal was in hot form, scoring twice for the hosts.

### Hapoel Jerusalem 1

**Hapoel Tel Aviv 1**

The Jerusalemites started brightly taking the lead through Victor Pacha from a fourth-minute corner, but then let the wily Shalom Tikva take advantage of a defensive lapse to equalize on the quarter hour for the visitors.

Tel Aviv had the upper hand during the rest of the match but neither side looked good enough to take all three points.

### Hapoel Kfar Sava 2

**Hapoel Beit She'an 0**

Beit She'an's woes continued with this further defeat in the only match of the round played on Friday. On this form it is hard to see how they can be spared the fate of relegation. Niv Tal (60) and Yaniv Abergil (65 penalty) scored Kfar Sava's goals.

**Second Division: Hakoah Ramat Gan 1, Hapoel Ashdod 1; Hapoel Beersheba 1, Bnei Sakhnin 1; Maccabi Kiryat Gat 2, Hapoel Tibsa 0; Hapoel Ashkelon 1, Betar Tel Aviv 0; Ali Nazareth 0, Hapoel Lod 0; Hapoel Bar Yam 2, Ness Ziona 3; Maccabi Acre 0, Betar Beersheba 2; Maccabi Kfar Kana 0, Maccabi Netanya 0.**  
**Toto: 2x1, x1x, x1x, 2x, x11**  
**Totopoints: 2x1, 1xx, 2xx, 1xx, 2x**  
**Tototeko: 2, 4, 6, 7, 13, 26, 30**

National League	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hapoel Haifa	12	10	2	0	20	3	32
Maccabi Haifa	12	8	2	2	30	10	26
Hapoel Petah Tikva	12	8	0	4	27	16	24
Betar Jerusalem	12	7	1	4	35	16	22
Maccabi Tel Aviv	12	6	3	3	24	17	21
Hapoel Tel Aviv	12	6	2	4	20	15	20
Hapoel Jerusalem	12	5	4	3	22	15	19
Hapoel Kfar Sava	12	5	2	5	18	22	17
Ironi Ashdod	12	4	4	4	19	19	16
Zafririm Holon	12	4	3	5	16	11	15
Ironi Rishon LeZion	12	3	4	5	19	28	13
Bnei Yehuda	12	3	2	7	16	25	11
Maccabi Herzliya	12	3	1	8	13	22	10
Maccabi Jaffa	12	1	1	10	7	32	4
Hapoel Beit She'an	12	1	1	10	6	39	4

Second Division	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hapoel Beersheba	11	8	2	1	20	1	26
Maccabi Netanya	11	7	4	0	17	6	25
Hakoah Ramat Gan	11	7	3	1	29	8	24
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	11	7	2	2	15	10	23
Hapoel Ashkelon	11	6	2	3	23	16	20
Betar Beersheba	11	6	0	5	17	11	18
Ness Ziona	11	5	1	5	20	23	16
Bnei Sakhnin	11	4	2	5	12	13	14
Maccabi Acre	11	4	2	5	12	14	14
Hapoel Ashdod	11	3	3	4	10	14	14
Ali Nazareth	11	3	4	4	9	13	13
Hapoel Lod	11	3	3	5	14	19	12
Hapoel Bar Yam	11	3	2	6	14	20	11
Maccabi Kfar Kana	11	2	2	7	7	19	8
Betar Tel Aviv	11	2	2	7	4	17	8
Hapoel Tibsa	11	0	0	11	6	30	0

## Cash-for-votes scandal hits IOC

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - A leading Olympic official yesterday made serious allegations of attempted corruption, saying cities bidding to stage Games were offered votes en bloc for millions of dollars.

Veteran International Olympic Committee (IOC) official Marc Hodler said four agents had been in action trying to run cash-for-votes deals.

He believed agents had been active for a decade and there had been "irregularities" for as long as he had been following the bidding process closely.

"There are four agents making a living out of this," said Hodler, who has been an IOC member since 1963 and has held numerous senior positions in the organization including that of vice-president.

The IOC issued a statement distancing itself from Hodler's comments.

"The IOC executive board today disas-

ciated itself from allegations made by one of its members in connection with the Olympic bid process," it said.

The venues for Olympic Games are decided by a vote of IOC members which can often be close-run affairs. There have often been allegations in the past of bidding cities "buying votes" from members with bribes.

Hodler's allegations are, by far, the most serious ever made on the record by a leading Olympic official.

They came just a day after the IOC said it was investigating accusations of payments made in Salt Lake City's successful bid to stage the 2002 Winter Games. Salt Lake officials say they did not offer bribes.

Hodler, 80, said the agents approached bidding cities and offered them blocs of votes if they paid between \$500,000 and one million dollars.

"The agents charge them around \$3 to 5

million if they win," the IOC vice-president said. "That agent can prove that no city has ever won a Games without his help. It is not only Africa but the bloc in Africa is important...It can be decisive."

Hodler was hard-hitting with his comments about bidding campaigns in the past. Asked whether he thought the campaign for the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games was clean, he replied: "Certainly not."

Asked whether he thought the organizers of the 2000 Games in Sydney had paid the agents, he added: "I can't imagine that Sydney is different from others. I do not know."

After meeting with IOC officials yesterday, a leading Sydney official admitted that one person had approached the bid and offered votes but he stressed the Australians had not taken up the offer.

Australian Olympic chief John Coates, a key member of the Sydney bidding team,

confirmed an Australian newspaper report which said an approach was made by someone who said he could secure some African votes.

"Certainly there was someone who came to Sydney and said he could help support," Coates said. "But we had nothing to do with it."

Salt Lake chiefs said earlier this week that during the bidding process for 2002, officials had organized tuition assistance and athlete training programs for 13 people, six of whom were direct relatives of IOC members.

The programs cost nearly \$400,000. The IOC is presently investigating whether the US city's bid committee broke Olympic rules which ban them from offering gifts to members or their relatives worth more than \$150.

Hodler described Salt Lake as a "victim" of the situation.

## England reply with 160/3 after Aussies reach 391



ON THE EDGE - England's Nasser Hussain kicks the ground in frustration after narrowly missing edging a ball yesterday in the third Ashes Test against Australia.

ADELAIDE (AP) - Two contentious decisions plunged England into early trouble in the third Ashes Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

After Justin Langer's unbeaten 179 had propped Australia to 391 all out, England, from a shaky 84 for three, recovered to 160 without further loss at stumps on the second day.

After opener Mark Butcher was adjudged leg before wicket by Australian umpire Steve Davis, an England batting revival was cruelly cut short when Mike Atherton (41) was given out by television umpire Paul Angley.

Atherton edged leg spinner Stuart MacGill and skipper Mark Taylor claimed the catch at slip. As the ball appeared to be caught on the half volley, the two umpires Davis and Steve Bucknor referred it to Angley.

After just two inconclusive replays, Angley signaled Atherton out to end a blossoming 65-run stand with Nasser Hussain unbeaten on 58.

Television replays remained inconclusive as to whether Taylor just managed to get his finger underneath the dropping ball.

"I told the umpire that I wasn't sure, and I left it to the third umpire," Taylor said.

Later yesterday, England lodged an official complaint over the incident with the International Cricket Council match referee John Reid of New Zealand.

And, in a statement issued by manager Graham Gooch, said that it is in no way a complaint against Taylor or the sportsmanship of the Australian team, but "the manner in which the decision was made in a short space of time."

Five balls later Alec Stewart's tour nightmare continued - he was dismissed for naught, caught at bat/pad. His scores in the series

have been 8, 3, 38, 0, and 0.

It was his fifth duck on tour as captain.

But Hussain, joined by Mark Ramprakash, 45 not out, boldly resurrected the sagging innings with an unfinished 76-run stand in 80 minutes.

The fourth-wicket pair batted admirably on a dusty and turning pitch against MacGill and the off spin of Colin Miller and Mark Waugh.

**Scoreboard**  
Yesterday at stumps on the second day of the third Test at the Adelaide Oval: Australia 391-5, England 160-3, 1st innings.

**Overnight 288 for four**  
Michael Slater c Stewart b Headley 17  
Justin Langer not out 179  
Mark Waugh c and b Such 7  
Steve Waugh c Hick b Gough 59  
Ricky Ponting c Hick b Gough 5  
Iain Healy c Ramprakash b Headley 19  
Damian Fleming lbw b Headley 12  
Stuart MacGill c Such 0  
Colin Miller lbw b Headley 11  
Glenn McGrath c Stewart b Gough 10  
Extras (lb, 13nb) 18  
TOTAL 391 all out

Fall of wickets: 28, 140, 156, 254, 274, 371, 388, 391-5, 391.

**Bowling:** Darren Gough 29.5-4-103-3 (18rb), Alan Mullally 28.5-8-0, Dean Headley 23.1-97-4 (18rb), Peter Such 38.8-9-3 (1nb), Mark Ramprakash 8.1-27-0.

**Batting time:** 545 minutes. **Overs:** 125.5

**England, 1st innings**  
Mark Butcher lbw b Miller 6  
Mike Atherton c Taylor b MacGill 41  
Nasser Hussain not out 58  
Alec Stewart c Slater b Miller 0  
Mark Ramprakash not out 45  
Extras (lb, 3nb, 1w, 5nb) 10  
TOTAL 160 for three

Fall of wickets: 18, 83, 84.  
To bat: John Crawley, Graeme Hick, Dean Headley, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally and Peter Such.

**Bowling:** Glenn McGrath 13.2-41-0 (1w, 5nb), Damien Fleming 8.2-22-0, Colin Miller 18.1-48-2, Stuart MacGill 16.5-29-1, Mark Waugh 21.3-17-0. **Batting time:** 193 minutes. **Overs:** 52.

**South Africa v Zimbabwe**  
South Africa beat the West Indies by 178 runs in the second Test yesterday in Port Elizabeth to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

West Indies, set 320 to win, were dismissed for 141.

Fast bowler Allan Donald led the assault with five for 49.

West Indies captain Brian Lara had the best score of 39 off 49 balls, including six fours and a six.

**Pakistan v Zimbabwe**  
Pakistan 211-5 v Zimbabwe (183) - close Pakistan, replying to Zimbabwe's first innings score of 183, were 211 for five at the close on the third day of the second Test yesterday at Lahore.

## One more for Denver and on to Miami



NEW YORK (AP) - The Miami Dolphins have a problem.

People in south Florida already are looking ahead to next week, when the Broncos arrive, presumably unbeaten, and the Dolphins try to protect the unbeaten record of the 1972 Miami team.

Jimmy Johnson wants no part of it, not with the Jets coming today tied with the Dolphins for first in the four-team AFC East race.

"They all count one," Johnson said. "As we've seen in past years, some of the ones that we didn't think were that significant counted one, and unfortunately they counted one against us. So you need to win as many games as you can win."

Johnson's Dolphins were one of the teams indirectly hurt by poor officiating last week - they'd be a

game ahead of the Jets if the officials hadn't incorrectly ruled that Vinny Testaverde got over the goal line with 20 seconds left to give them a 32-31 win over Seattle.

But a win here - they're favored by three points - would give Miami control of the division anyway. They desperately need it - their final two opponents, Denver and Atlanta, are a combined 24-2 right now. DOLPHINS, 24-22.

Denver at New York Giants  
The pressure of being unbeaten seems to be getting to Denver. But they'll make it at least as far as Miami. BRONCOS, 27-9.

Oakland at Buffalo  
As in 1995, the Raiders are in free fall. BILLS, 24-11.

Atlanta at New Orleans  
As big a game as these two have played recently - the Saints are tied with the Cards for the NFC's last wild-card spot, the Falcons are a game ahead of the 49ers in the West. SAINTS, 16-13.

Tennessee at Jacksonville  
Two advantages for Tennessee. They'll have tape of Jamie Martin,

the career third-stringer replacing Mark Brunell at quarterback for the Jags. And they probably need the game more than Jacksonville, which will clinch the AFC Central with a win or a Pittsburgh loss. OILERS, 17-16.

Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay  
Two teams that must win. Two teams that have trouble scoring. BUCS, 9-6.

Detroit at San Francisco  
The Lions can play with anyone when they're at home. 49ERS, 34-20 (Tomorrow night).

Minnesota at Baltimore  
The Vikings can probably name the score. VIKINGS, 31-6.

Dallas at Kansas City  
Having scared the Broncos, do the Chiefs mail it in? COWBOYS, 24-21.

Chicago at Green Bay  
The banged-up Packers have one thing working for them - two of their last three are against the Bears. PACKERS, 24-7.

Arizona at Philadelphia  
Dangerous for the Cards, who have a lot of injuries. But Jake

Plummer only plays badly against the Giants. CARDINALS, 30-17.

New England at St. Louis  
The Patriots are on a roll. The Rams aren't. PATRIOTS, 28-6.

Cincinnati at Indianapolis  
Who will Mike Brown fire after this loss? COLTS, 27-20.

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**  
East: W L T Pct. PF PA  
N.Y. Jets 9 4 0 .692 347 320  
Miami 9 4 0 .692 258 185  
New England 8 5 0 .615 385 245  
Buffalo 8 5 0 .615 301 262  
Indianapolis 2 11 0 .154 229 364  
Central  
Jacksonville 10 3 0 .769 348 269  
Tennessee 7 6 0 .538 276 251  
Pittsburgh 7 6 0 .538 233 241  
Baltimore 5 8 0 .385 219 263  
Cincinnati 2 11 0 .154 217 354  
West  
y-Denver 13 0 0 1.000 436 227  
Oakland 7 6 0 .538 226 271  
Seattle 6 7 0 .462 286 242  
Kansas City 5 8 0 .385 269 294  
San Diego 5 8 0 .385 201 271  
y-clinched division title

**San Diego at Seattle**  
The zebras owe the Seahawks one. SEAHAWKS, 17-13.

Washington at Carolina  
If the season had started six weeks ago, the Skins would be a contender. REDSKINS, 22-20.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
East: W L T Pct. PF PA  
Dallas 8 5 0 .615 336 264  
Arizona 6 7 0 .462 270 331  
N.Y. Giants 5 8 0 .385 219 276  
Washington 4 9 0 .308 244 357  
Philadelphia 3 10 0 .231 125 291  
Central  
y-Minnesota 12 1 0 .923 442 242  
Green Bay 9 5 0 .615 336 264  
Tampa Bay 6 7 0 .462 247 272  
Detroit 5 8 0 .385 266 300  
Chicago 3 10 0 .231 219 323

West  
x-Alabama 11 2 0 .846 353 239  
x-San Francisco 10 3 0 .769 385 272  
New Orleans 6 7 0 .462 238 268  
St. Louis 3 10 0 .231 221 302  
Carolina 2 11 0 .154 264 353  
x-clinched playoff berth

## No. 1 UConn edges Pittsburgh 70-69

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Khalid El-Amin drove the lane for the winning basket just before time expired as No. 1 Connecticut, down by four points with 18 seconds to play, staged a frantic finish to beat No. 20 Pittsburgh 70-69 yesterday.

The Huskies (8-0, 1-0 in Big East) scored five points in the last nine seconds on Albert Mourning's fadeaway 22-foot 3-pointer and El-Amin's layup to snatch away a victory that jubilant Pitt students were already celebrating.

The improbable finish - the Huskies trailed by as many as 13 points in the second half - left the stunned Panthers standing on the court in disbelief mere seconds after it seemed they had pulled off their first upset of a No. 1 team in Fitzgerald Field House's 48-year history.

Pitt students had already begun

surrounding the court for a postgame celebration when Vonteego Cummings, the Panthers' slump-ridden star, threw the inbound pass away immediately after Mourning's basket and the Huskies ran it down in the backcourt.

El-Amin, who finished with 12 points despite a scoreless first half, then sliced through the middle of the Panthers' defense for the winning points - Connecticut's first lead since 35-34 with 1:18 left in the first half.

Richard Hamilton had 15 points on 4-of-15 shooting, while Mourning and Jake Voskuhl had 10 each for the Huskies, playing their third Top 20 opponent in 12 days.

In Tuesday's game on Friday, No. 9 Purdue (9-1) beat Valparaiso 78-70 and No. 11 Indiana (9-2) beat Boise State 90-66.

## League, union meet secretly



NEW YORK (AP) - Under a shroud of secrecy, top negotiators for NBA owners and players have made plans to have another stealth meeting this weekend after holding a hush-hush five-hour session a day earlier.

"It's always a good sign when the sides are

meeting as opposed to not meeting. Hopefully we'll come to some sort of a productive exchange," said Jeffrey Kessler, the lead outside counsel for the union.

Neither side divulged any details of Friday's session, although sources close to the talks said it centered more on defining dif-

ferences rather than settling them.

"We agreed not to discuss any of the details, and I don't want to break that pledge," deputy commissioner Russ Granik said.

Thursday's session was the first secret meeting since Oct. 26, when the sides first came up with a framework for a collective bargaining agreement. A deal was within reach two nights later when Michael Jordan joined in and the sides met late into the evening, but talks eventually broke off with little progress since.

If this weekend's meeting proves productive, it is likely that both sides' full bargaining teams will be brought in next week for their first session since December 3.

"I think David Stern clearly has a timetable in his own mind. I've always said it's best to communicate, and it's distressing that they haven't," said agent David Falk, whose client, Patrick Ewing, is the president of the players' union.

"For what the commissioner is going to get out of this delay, maybe an extra \$2 or \$3 million per team, for the damage it's creating I just don't understand it," Falk said.

The sides are fighting over how to split an estimated \$2 billion in annual revenue. The owners, who paid 57 percent of revenue toward salaries last season, are seeking cost certainty over the final three or four years of a six- or seven-year deal.

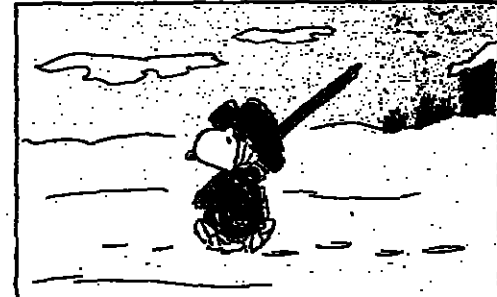
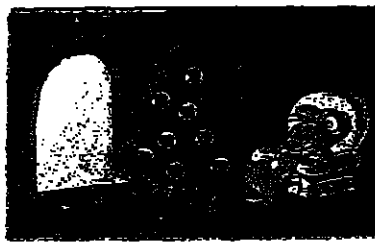
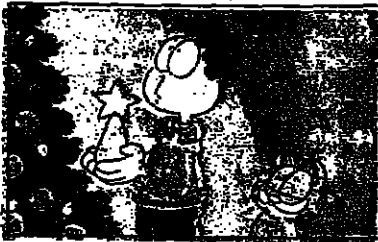
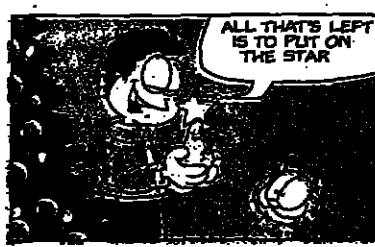
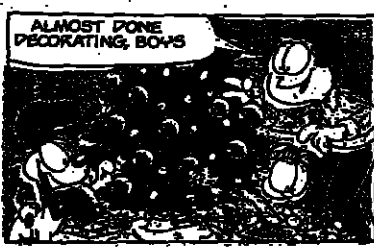
The players, who have offered concessions on high-end salaries and maximum annual raises, would like to continue receiving the same percentage of revenue they got last season.

Both sides have publicly stated that they have not yet put their best offers on the table. The first 28 months of the season have been lost, and it is believed that an agreement must be reached by early January in order to save the season.

## British results, standings

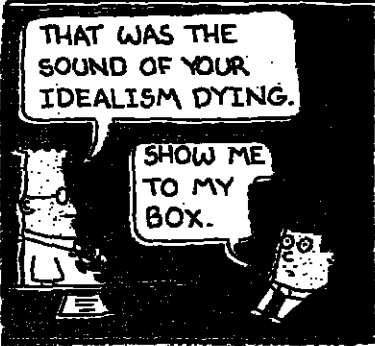
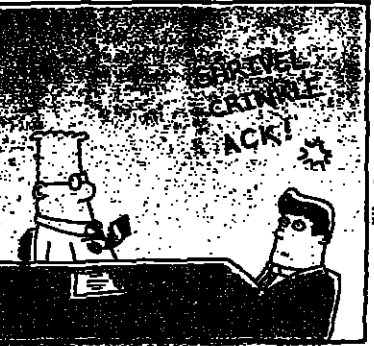
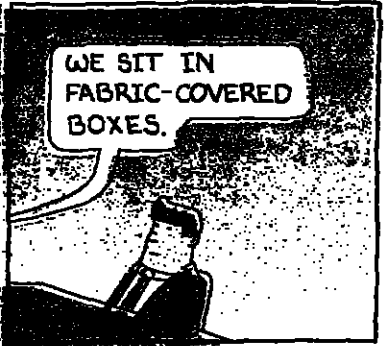
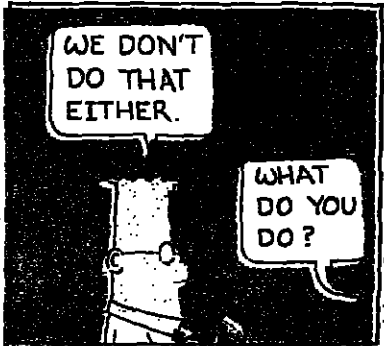
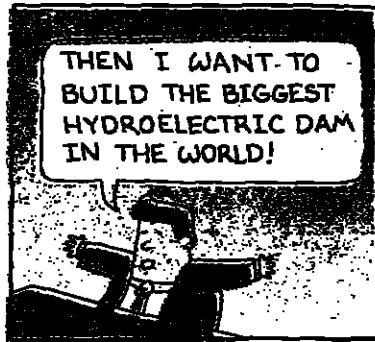
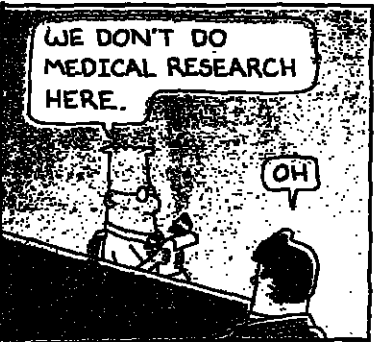
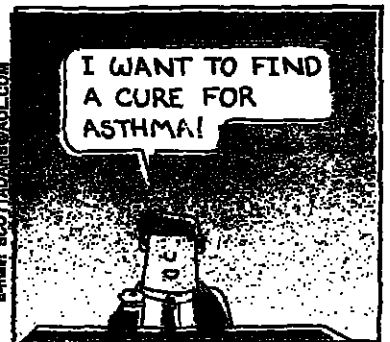
**Premier League**  
P W D L F A Pts  
Man United 16 8 6 2 33 19 30  
Aston Villa 16 8 6 2 24 15 30  
Chelsea 16 7 8 1 26 16 29  
Middlesbrough 17 6 9 2 27 19 27  
Leeds 16 6 8 2 26 14 26  
Arsenal 16 6 8 2 15 7 26  
West Ham 17 7 5 5 20 21 26  
Leicester 17 6 6 5 21 19 24  
Derby 17 5 8 4 17 16 23  
Tottenham 17 6 5 6 23 26 23  
Wimbledon 16 6 5 5 21 26 23  
Liverpool 16 6 4 6 27 21 22  
Sheff Wed 17 6 4 7 20 17 22  
Everton 17 5 7 5 11 15 22  
Newcastle 17 5 6 6 21 21 21  
Charlton 17 3 7 7 22 27 16  
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DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

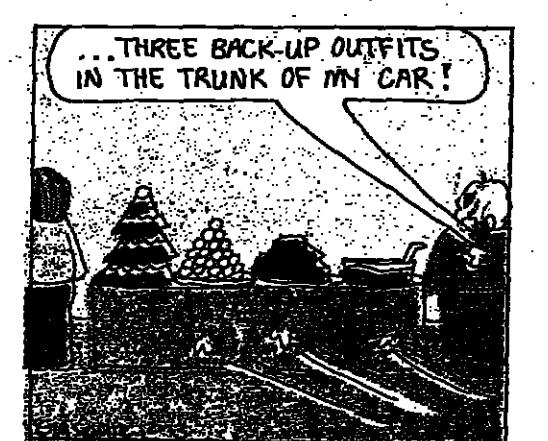
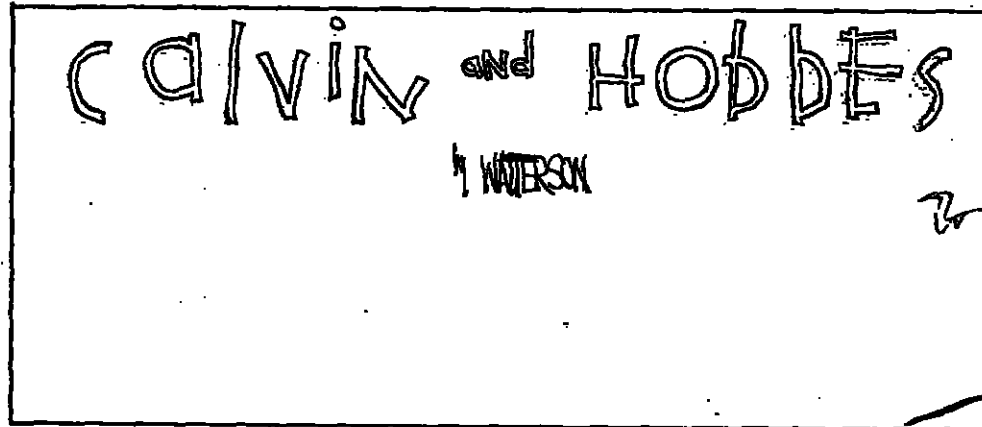


Doonesbury  
G. B. TRUDEAU



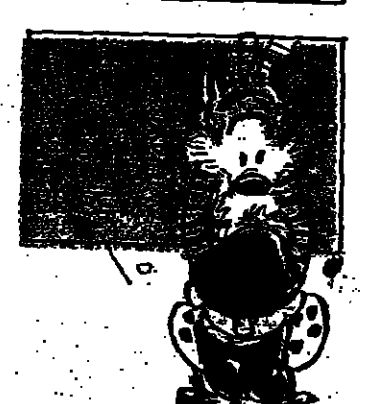
CATHY

BY CATHY GUISEWITE



calvin and Hobbes

WATKINSON





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Sports Editors  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## DiMaggio awakens, but outlook 'dire'

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — Joe DiMaggio slipped in and out of a coma, again bringing family to his bedside for what could be a final vigil.

But the 84-year-old American baseball great startled doctors Friday with his resiliency. At one point, he awakened from the deep coma, moved his head and squeezed his doctor's hand.

"It's still a very dire situation," Dr. Earl Barron said after visiting DiMaggio in the afternoon. "The whole thing could change in 15 minutes."

Barron said earlier in the day that chances of recovery were slim after DiMaggio weakened from an "overwhelming" lung infection. But even the doctor seemed stunned by this latest turn.

"You won't believe it, but he's awake and he's moving his head and grabbing my hand and squeezing it," Barron said.

"It's completely unexpected. The coma that was present this morning is just not there now."

Earlier, Barron sounded far less optimistic about how long DiMaggio would live.

"I don't know how long, but I would guess not very," he said.

"We're near the end," Engelberg said. "It's a question of hours, perhaps days."

The family was discussing whether to sign a "do not resuscitate" order, which Barron said would allow DiMaggio to die with a "measure of dignity."

## Norman: 'We're looking good'

## Internationals enjoy huge lead in Presidents Cup

MELBOURNE (AP) — No, this Presidents Cup isn't a war. The United States is hardly even putting up a fight.

With another stunning 18th-hole birdie and perfection from one of its least-known players, the International team all but clinched its first Presidents Cup yesterday at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

At the end of a day in which the wind switched to the south and dropped afternoon temperatures, the one constant was the remarkable — the Americans might call it unbelievable — play of the International team.

After winning 4 1/2 of a possible five points in the morning alternate-shot matches, including one on a 50-foot chip-in for birdie on the 18th hole by Australian Craig Parry, the International team held off any US hopes for a comeback to build a lead that is virtually insurmountable.

The International team is up 14 1/2 to 5 1/2 and needs to win only two of the 12 singles matches today.

"We haven't got it yet, but we're looking good," said Greg Norman, 3-0-1 in four matches with fellow Aussie Steve Elkington.

The US, needing to mount some semblance of a charge in the afternoon best-ball matches, watched its hopes fall apart on the closing holes.

Norman, the man most responsible for moving the matches out of the US after two appearances at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Virginia, made a 15-foot birdie putt on the 14th hole to give himself and Elkington the lead over Fred Couples and Davis Love III.

They closed out the final match at 2-up when Norman knocked down the flag at the 17th and the Americans, typical of their entire day, couldn't make a birdie putt.

Tiger Woods and John Huston made a spirited comeback from 4-down after six holes and 2-down with three holes to play when Woods made birdie putts of 4 and 30 feet.

But Ernie Els won the match 1-up with a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th, and Huston's 10-foot putt to halve never had a chance.

"I'm very disappointed," Woods said. "They are just doing the right things at the right time. It's frustrating. I don't know what else we

could have done. This is what match play is all about."

But who would have figured that? David Duval, the leading money-winner on the US PGA Tour and perhaps the most dominant player in the world, is 0-3-1, while Shigeki Maruyama of Japan hasn't lost yet.

Maruyama, paired with Joe Oski in a best-ball match against Duval and Mickelson, closed out the match with three straight birdies for a 3 and 2 victory.

Japan's mighty mite also came up big in the morning, holing a 35-foot birdie putt to bring the alternate-shot match even against Woods and Couples, then watching with delight as Parry, his partner, pulled off another last-hole



WRAPPED UP — International teammates Steve Elkington (l) and Greg Norman hug after their fourball win over Fred Couples and Davis Love III. At right, Love dejectedly walks away.

shocker.

One day after Frank Nobilo's thunderous 40-foot birdie putt on the 18th green gave the International team a jump start, Parry found himself in about the same position, needing to get up and down to halve the match.

Instead, he rammed in the 50-foot chip for a 1-up victory that swung the tide in the International's favor.

And yet, the International team was doing it all day — Norman's chip-in for birdie from 75 feet on the third hole of the best-ball match after Couples hit it stiff for a shoo-in birdie, and Nobilo with two more putts over 30 feet and two shorter ones that helped he and Greg Turner beat Love and

Justin Leonard in the morning alternate-shot match.

"They're playing great golf — holing all their shots, up-and-downs everywhere, and making so many birdie runs that it's hard to stop them," Woods said.

Both captains, Jack Nicklaus and Peter Thomson, had said throughout the week that these matches would not turn into the war-like mentality that has marked the Ryder Cup over the past 10 years.

No need to worry about that.

After two days and 20 matches, this is what the US — described by Thomson in opening ceremonies as the "greatest collection of players in the world" — has to show for its four matches won outright, and a futile search for an answer.

## Gifted guards square off

## It's Rancher vs. Waldman in local hoops action

By ELI GROSSER

Two of the league's most athletic point guards will square off in National Basketball League action tonight when Terrence Rancher and Bnei Herzliya host Hapoel Jerusalem and Hapoel Tel Aviv (Channel 5, 20:45).

Two weeks into the season, Herzliya was playing exactly as everyone had predicted — having gotten blown out twice — and appeared well on its way to relegation. But the re-signing of the enigmatic Rancher — who was cut last year after a contract dispute led to half-hearted efforts on the court — appears to be a new man, and when he's fulfilling his potential, no guard in the league is capable of stopping him. Rancher has singlehandedly ignited Herzliya's run to the middle of the standings.

Hapoel Jerusalem is coming off a disappointing overtime loss to Tofas Bursa in Saporta Cup play last Tuesday, and that game reflected everything one needs to know about Waldman: when he penetrates and plays aggressively on offense, he is one of the best players in the league. But if he gets content to stay outside the perimeter, erratic play usually ensues. In Turkey, we saw a little of both, but if Waldman displays the former, the home-court advantage won't be enough for Herzliya.

Another interesting game pits Hapoel Eilat against Hapoel Holon. Both teams are coming off devastating losses — Eilat lost in Jerusalem by 32 points last week and Holon was embarrassed at home against Maccabi Tel Aviv to the tune of 110-73. If Eilat wants to be taken seriously this season, this is a home game it can ill afford to lose. Holon, on the other hand, was beginning to convince league pundits that its first place spot up until last week was not a fluke, and, after last week's debacle, a win tonight would restore some confidence.

In other action tonight, Maccabi Tel Aviv travels to Kfar Blum to take on Galil Elyon. Ramat Gan hosts Maccabi Haifa. Givat Shmuel will look for a home win over hapless Hapoel Tel Aviv, and Rishon LeZion looks to climb to .500 with a win in Ra'anana.

**Pairings**

Singles matches scheduled today on the third day of the Presidents Cup at the 6,981-yard par-72 Royal Melbourne Golf Club: Justin Leonard, United States, vs. Craig Parry, International; David Duval, US, vs. Nick Price, Int; Jim Furyk, US, vs. Frank Nobilo, Int; Phil Mickelson, US, vs. Carlos Franco, Int; John Huston, US, vs. Shigeki Maruyama, Int; Scott Hoch, US, vs. Joe Oski, Int; Mark Calcavecchia, US, vs. Greg Turner, Int; Lee Janzen, US, vs. Steve Elkington, Int; Davis Love III, US, vs. Ernie Els, Int; Fred Couples, US, vs. Vijay Singh, Int; Tiger Woods, US, vs. Greg Norman, Int; Mark O'Meara, US, vs. Stuart Appleby.

**National Basketball League**

Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	1	15
Hapoel Jerusalem	7	1	15
Hapoel Holon	6	3	15
Maccabi Ra'anana	5	4	14
Hapoel Eilat	4	5	13
Bnei Herzliya	4	5	13
Maccabi Ramat Gan	4	5	13
Rishon LeZion	4	5	13
Galil Elyon	4	4	12
Maccabi Haifa	3	6	12
Givat Shmuel	3	6	12
Hapoel Tel Aviv	1	7	9

**Avery heads to Reds**

NASHVILLE (AP) — Hoping that pitching will help them get in contention next season, the Cincinnati Reds agreed Friday night to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract with Steve Avery.

The 28-year-old left-hander, a star with Atlanta from 1991-94, had spent the past two seasons with Boston, going 16-14.

Avery, 10-7 with a 5.02 ERA this year, becomes yet another player to leave the Red Sox, who also have lost Mo Vaughn, Greg Swindell and Mike Benjamin while adding only Jose Offerman and Mark Portugal.

Avery, 55-18 with Atlanta, joins a staff that includes Dennis Neagle, Pete Harnisch and Brett Tomko, all 10-game winners this year.

Cincinnati also has Jason Bere, a 10-game winner in 1993 and '94.



CLEARED — Spurs Sol Campbell (c) has his header deflected by Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel. Tottenham drew 2-2 with the Reds.

## United back on top despite draw

LONDON (AP) — There's a new leader in English soccer, and it's a familiar name: Manchester United.

The world's richest club, Manchester United got a 2-2 draw yesterday at Tottenham, but United should have had a victory as they blew a 2-0 lead on two headers in the last 20 minutes by Tottenham's Sol Campbell.

United played the last 50 minutes a man short after Gary Neville picked up his second yellow card.

Chelsea also blew their chance to move to the top of English soccer for the first time since 1989, drawing 2-2 with Derby when substitute Dean Sturridge scored in second-half injury time to equalize for the Rams.

Manchester United lead with 30 points, ahead of Aston Villa on goal difference, also with 30.

Villa, the leaders all season, could regain the No. 1 spot in their home match today with Arsenal.

Chelsea hold third place with 29 points followed by Middlesbrough

Leicester 3, Nottingham Forest 1; Sheffield Wednesday 3, Charlton 0.

Today, Aston Villa and Arsenal square off with Liverpool playing at Wimbledon. In tomorrow's only match, Leeds play host to Coventry.

In England's first division, Sunderland won at home 2-0 over Port Vale on goals by Martin Smith (24th) and Paul Butler (44th) to stay in first place with 49 points, seven clear of Ipswich.

Ipswich lost 2-0 at home to Barnsley and stayed on 42 points.

In Scotland, Rangers defeated second-place Kilmarnock 1-0 on Rod Wallace's goal in the 10th.

Rangers have 34 points to 31 for Kilmarnock and 27 for third-place Celtic. Also: Aberdeen 2, Hearts 0; Dundee United 1, Celtic 1; Dunfermline 1, Motherwell 1; St. Johnstone 1, Dundee 1.

In other Premier League games yesterday: Blackburn 0, Newcastle 0; Everton 1, Southampton 0;

could race Liverpool...

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**THE WEATHER**  
http://www.accuweather.com

**ISRAEL**  
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Israel: Sunny in the north today while southern areas are partly sunny. Warmer in all areas. Highs 19-25. Fair tonight. Lows 8-15.

**ISRAEL CITIES**

City	Today	High	Low	Mon	High	Low	Tue	High	Low	Wed	High	Low
Ariel	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Beersheba	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Dead Sea	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Eilat	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Haifa	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Jerusalem	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Katrin	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Neotoma	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Tel Aviv	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Tiberias	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Beer Sheva	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5
Eilat	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5	21/11	21/11	13/5

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, drizzle, showers, thunderstorms, fog, etc. (S): snow, rain, etc.

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	High	Low	Mon	High	Low	Tue	High	Low	Wed	High	Low
Amsterdam	9/48	7/44	3/25	10/50	11/52	3/25	10/50	11/52	3/25	10/50	11/52	3/25
Beijing	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25
Berlin	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25
Buenos Aires	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25
Calcutta	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25
Chicago	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25
Frankfurt	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25
Hong Kong	21/70	18/68	15/65	21/70	18/68	15/65	21/70	18/68	15/65	21/70	18/68	15/65
London	10/50	4/38	1/25	10/50	4/38	1/25	10/50	4/38	1/25	10/50	4/38	1/25
Los Angeles	21/70	18/68	15/65	21/70	18/68	15/65	21/70	18/68	15/65	21/70	18/68	15/65
Madrid	17/63	9/48	3/25	17/63	9/48	3/25	17/63	9/48	3/25	17/63	9/48	3/25
Mexico City	18/64	10/50	6/38	18/64	10/50	6/38	18/64	10/50	6/38	18/64	10/50	6/38
Montreal	23/5	11/31	3/25	23/5	11/31	3/25	23/5	11/31	3/25	23/5	11/31	3/25
Moscow	12/11	18/64	11/31	12/11	18/64	11/31	12/11	18/64	11/31	12/11	18/64	11/31
New York	10/50	3/27	2/25	10/50	3/27	2/25	10/50	3/27	2/25	10/50	3/27	2/25
Paris	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25	11/52	7/44	3/25
Peking	4/29	3/27	2/25	4/29	3/27	2/25	4/29	3/27	2/25	4/29	3/27	2/25
Puerto Rico	31/88	23/70	18/68	31/88	23/70	18/68	31/88	23/70	18/68	31/88	23/70	18/68
Rio de Janeiro	12/50	9/48	3/25	12/50	9/48	3/25	12/50	9/48	3/25	12/50	9/48	3/25
Sydney	23/5	11/31	3/25	23/5	11/31	3/25	23/5	11/31	3/25	23/5	11/31	3/25
Tokyo	13/55	9/48	3/25	13/55	9/48	3/25	13/55	9/48	3/25	13/55	9/48	3/25
Toronto	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25
Vancouver	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25
Washington	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25	9/48	3/27	2/25
Zurich	7/44	3/27	2/25	7/44	3/27	2/25	7/44	3/27	2/25	7/44	3/27	2/25